Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System

(VAERS)

VAERS is a national vaccine safety surveillance program that accepts reports of adverse events and reactions that occur following vaccination.

Healthcare providers, vaccine manufacturers, and the public can submit reports to VAERS.

Important Limitations:

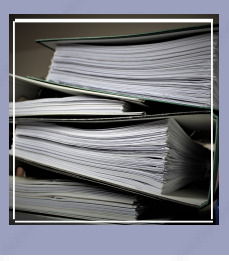
VAERS reports alone cannot be used to determine if a vaccine caused or contributed to an adverse event or illness.

- Providers are encouraged to report any significant health problems following vaccination, **whether or not they believe the vaccine was the cause.**

- Reports may include incomplete, inaccurate, coincidental, and unverified information.

- Most reports are voluntary, which means they are subject to biases.

- The number of reports alone cannot be used to reach conclusions about the existence, severity, frequency, or rates of problems associated with vaccines.



- Data does not represent all known safety information and should not be interpreted alone.

Strengths of VAERS:

- Can quickly provide early warning of a safety problem.
- Is designed to rapidly detect unusual or unexpected patterns of adverse events, aka "safety signals."
    - Safety signals are further studied by safety systems