Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI)

What is an Adverse Event Following Immunisation?

An AEFI is any unwanted or unexpected event following the administration of vaccine(s). AEFI may be caused by the vaccine(s) or they may occur by coincidence (they would have occurred regardless of the vaccination).

Vaccines are designed to produce an immunologic response in the body. This is what gives protection against disease. Sometimes vaccines can produce unwanted reactions. Most of these common side effects are mild and do not last very long. The benefits of vaccination outweigh the small risk of unwanted reactions.

Seek medication attention if you are concerned about a reaction following immunisation.

Common Side Effects

Vaccines can cause minor adverse events such as a low-grade fever, pain and/or redness at the injection site. These should be anticipated and do not contraindicate further vaccination. Paracetamol and a cool compress will help to relieve symptoms. These reactions typically resolve in 1-2 days. . A full list of effects of disease and vaccine side effects is available in the current Australian Immunisation Handbook which can be accessed at http://www.immunise.health.gov.au

Uncommon and Rare AEFI

A very small number of people may have more serious and significant reactions. These may include anaphylaxis (allergic response), seizures and severe rash.

Reporting AEFI

Reports of AEFI are accepted from

- Immunisation providers
- Any member of the public
- Any health professional

AEFI are received at the Immunisation Unit, ACT Health Directorate by

- Telephone 6205 2300
- Fax 6205 1738
- Post Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, 2611

AEFI reporting forms are available on the Health website at http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sendfile&ft=p&fid=1333342430&sid=
There is no time limit for reporting AEFI. The Immunisation Unit provides advice and support to people who have experienced AEFI.

Why should you report AEFI?

Surveillance of AEFI aims to monitor immunisation program safety and to detect rare, late-onset occurring and unexpected adverse events.

All reports received by the Immunisation Unit are forwarded onto the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicines (ACSOM), which is part of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for evaluation. Australia-wide annual reports on AEFI are published by the Australian Government at http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-aefi-anrep.htm

Need more information?

For more information about AEFI, contact your doctor or call the Health Protection Service, Immunisation Information Line during business hours on **(02) 6205 2300.**

INFORMATION

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Howard Florey Centenary House, 25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611
Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek ACT 2611
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Email: immunisation@act.gov.au
Web site: www.health.act.gov.au

Communicable Disease Control Section at Health Protection Service *is responsible for the investigation and surveillance of notifiable or infectious conditions in the ACT in order to control or prevent their spread in the community. This includes the promotion of immunisation, education and other strategies that help to limit the spread of diseases.*

Acknowledgements:

1. NHMRC, 2008, *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*, 9th edition.
2. NSW Health website, AEFI.
3. SAEFVIC, 2010, Surveillance of AEFI following Vaccination in the Community.
4. WHO, 2009, AEFI.

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- If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like to receive this publication in an alternative format—such as large print or audio—please telephone 13 2281 or email HealthACT@act.gov.au.
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