



# IDENTIFYING VACCINE REACTIONS

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National Vaccine  
Information Center  
Your Health. Your Family. Your Choice.  
[NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org) & [NVICAdvocacy.org](http://NVICAdvocacy.org)

**Seek immediate medical attention for a serious vaccine reaction and make a report to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).**

**Vaccine reaction symptoms, which can appear within hours, days or weeks of vaccination, include:**

- Pronounced swelling, redness, heat or hardness at injection site;
- Body rash or hives;
- Wheezing/difficulty breathing (including asthma);
- Sudden unusually fast or irregular heartbeat;
- Severe pain in head, chest, joints, or muscles;
- Shock/collapse followed by unresponsiveness, deep sleep;
- High pitched screaming or hours of persistent crying;
- Changes in sleep/wake pattern, and dramatic personality changes;
- High fever (over 103F), chills;
- Twitching or jerking of the body, arm, leg or head;
- Weakness/paralysis or any part of the body;
- Crossing of eyes, loss of eye contact, awareness, memory or speech;
- Loss of ability to roll over, sit up or stand up;
- Head banging or unusual flapping, rubbing, rocking, spinning;
- Disabling fatigue;
- Onset of chronic ear or respiratory infections;
- Severe nausea, vomiting or diarrhea;
- Excessive bruising, bleeding or anemia.

To learn more about vaccine reactions and complications, visit NVIC's Disease and Vaccine webpages at [NVIC.org](http://NVIC.org)