VAERS Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System
www.vaers.hhs.gov

VAERS DATA USE GUIDE

Contents

1. Important Information About VAERS

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) was created by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to receive reports about adverse events that may be associated with vaccines. No prescription drug or biological product, such as a vaccine, is completely free from side effects. Vaccines protect many people from dangerous illnesses, but vaccines, like drugs, can cause side effects, a small percentage of which may be serious. VAERS is used to continually monitor reports to determine whether any vaccine or vaccine lot has a higher than expected rate of events.

Doctors and other vaccine providers are encouraged to report adverse events, even if they are not certain that the vaccination was the cause. Since it is difficult to distinguish a coincidental event from one truly caused by a vaccine, the VAERS database will contain events of both types.

In addition, it is often the case that more than one vaccine was administered, making it difficult to know to which of the vaccines the event might be attributed. In analyzing individual reports, researchers examine the medical information about the event, and obtain more specific information from the reporters whenever necessary. Patterns of reporting associated with vaccines and vaccine lots are also analyzed.

About 85-90% of vaccine adverse event reports concern relatively minor events, such as fevers or redness and swelling at the injection site. The remaining reports (less than 15%) describe serious events, such as hospitalizations, life-threatening illnesses, or deaths. The reports of serious events are of greatest concern and receive the most careful scrutiny by VAERS staff.

VAERS researchers apply procedures and methods of analysis to help us closely monitor the safety of vaccines. When a concern arises, action is taken. We hope that this brief explanation of the factors associated with vaccines and adverse events will assist you in understanding the data you are viewing.

Requests for additional information should be addressed to:

Food and Drug Administration
Division of Freedom of Information
Office of the Executive Secretariat, OC
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1035
Rockville, MD 20857

2. Brief Description of VAERS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) established VAERS, which is co-administered by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to accept all reports of suspected adverse events, in all age groups, after the administration of any U.S. licensed vaccine. On November 1, 1990 VAERS replaced CDC's Monitoring System for Adverse Events Following Immunization (MSAEFI) for public sector reporting and FDA's Spontaneous Reporting System for private sector and manufacturer reporting. The primary purpose for maintaining the database is to serve as an early warning or signaling system for adverse events not detected during pre-market testing. In addition, the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (NCVIA) requires health care providers and vaccine manufacturers to report to the DHHS specific adverse events following the administration of those vaccines outlined in the Act.

All reports are coded and entered to the VAERS database. The adverse events described in each report were coded utilizing the FDA's Coding Symbols for a Thesaurus of Adverse Reaction Terms (COSTART) from November 1990 until 1/16/2007. On 1/17/2007 the VAERS coding system was converted to an international coding system that is used worldwide. This system is called the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (MedDRA). The MedDRA coding system uses key words representing the medical condition(s) described in the case report and converts them to standardized codes. The MedDRA codes provided in the dataset are called the "Preferred Terms"; there are more than 17,000 Preferred

Term codes in the MedDRA system. The MedDRA coding system is more detailed than the COSTART system. Therefore, the MedDRA system is not only standardized for international use, but also able to code medical terms in a more exacting manner than the COSTART system design. All the COSTART codes that were used in the VAERS data prior to January 17, 2007 have been converted to MedDRA coding terms. The MedDRA coding system is updated semi-annually, and terms may be added, deleted, or changed with each new release. VAERS reports are coded using the MedDRA version in effect at the time the codes are entered; therefore, different terms may be used to describe similar events in reports coded at different times.

If you desire more information about MedDRA, please visit the following web site: http://www.meddramsso.com/

A new version of the VAERS form, **VAERS 2**, was released in July 2017. Some fields in the **VAERS 1** form were modified and others discontinued. We currently accept both versions of the form and identify them in the public data files.

3. VAERS Data Should be Interpreted with Caution

- VAERS data are from a passive surveillance system and represent unverified reports of health events that occur after vaccination. Such data are subject to limitations of under-reporting, simultaneous administration of multiple vaccine antigens, reporting bias, and lack of incidence rates in unvaccinated comparison groups.
- When reporting and evaluating data from VAERS, it is important to note that for any reported event, no cause and effect relationship has been established. The event may have been related to an underlying disease or condition, to medications being taken concurrently, or may have occurred by chance.
- A report often involves more than one vaccine and may involve more than one reported adverse event.
- In certain cases, VAERS requests additional information from reporters, healthcare providers and other parties.
- When multiple reports of a single case or event are received, only the first report received is included in the publicly accessible dataset. Subsequent reports may contain additional or conflicting data, and there is no assurance that the data provided in the public dataset is the most accurate or current available.
- A given report may meet more than one criterion for classification as "serious."
- Accumulations of events reported to a passive surveillance system do not allow incidence rate calculations due to the generally unknown extent of under-reporting as well as lack of information on the number of people being vaccinated.

Disclaimer: Please note that VAERS staff follow-up on all serious and other selected adverse event reports to obtain additional medical, laboratory, and/or autopsy records to help understand the concern raised. However, in general, coding terms in VAERS do not change based on the information received during the follow-up process. VAERS data should be used with caution as numbers and conditions do not reflect data collected during follow-up. Note that the inclusion of events in VAERS data does not infer causality.

4. Description of Data Files

VAERS data is accessible by two mechanisms: by downloading raw data in comma-separated value (CSV) files for import into a database, spreadsheet, or text editing program, or by use of the CDC WONDER online search tool.

The downloadable VAERS public data set consists of three separate data files. These files are provided by calendar year beginning with the first VAERS reports reported in the latter part of 1990. The public data set is updated periodically, and the date of the update is referenced on the website. We currently accept the 2 versions of the VAERS form; fields in the **VAERS 2** form are referred to as Items and Boxes in the **VAERS 1** version. Comma-separated-value (CSV) files are industry-standard text files compatible with most of the major database or statistical analysis products on the market. Each data set is available for download in 2 formats: as three separate CSV files or as a compressed Zip file that contains the three CSV files listed for the specific year. Please note that for security reasons we require a CAPTCHA password to be entered by the user during download.

CDC WONDER, developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is an easy-to-use menu-driven system requiring no computer expertise or special software that provides access to a wide array of public health information. With CDC WONDER you can produce tables, maps, charts, and data extracts showing the incidence of vaccine adverse events, and select specific event, vaccine, and demographic criteria to produce cross-tabulated incidence measures. You can also limit and index your data by several variables. VAERS data is available on CDC WONDER at http://wonder.cdc.gov/vaers.html. Additional information about CDC WONDER is available at http://wonder.cdc.gov/wonder/help/vaers.html .

For each section below, each row in a table refers to a separate field (or column) in the data. The "Header" provides the field name or column "header." "Type" describes the type of data contained in the data field. The information in parenthesis specifies the data format or number of digits or characters contained in the field. There are three data types:

1. NUM = numeric data
2. CHAR = text or "character" data
3. DATE = date fields in mm/dd/yy format

No data is provided that would allow identification of any individuals associated with these reports. Each field, each row, in the table pertains to information recorded in (or derived from) the various numbered sections of the VAERS form except when otherwise specified.

4.1 VAERSDATA.CSV

The following table provides a detailed description of the data provided in each field of the VAERSDATA.CSV file. The first two fields in this table are the only fields of the dataset not derived from the VAERS form. As we currently accept 2 versions of the VAERS form, the corresponding mapping is included to facilitate review. The fields are listed in the order they appear on the file not on the VAERS form

Header	Type	VAERS 2 Form	VAERS 1 Form	Description of Contents
VAERS_ID	Num(6)	✔	✔	VAERS Identification Number
RECVDATE	Date	✔	✔	Date report was received
STATE	Char(2)	Derived	Box 1	State
AGE_YRS	Num(xxx.x)	Item 6	Box 4	Age in Years
CAGE_YR	Num(xxx)	Derived	Derived	Calculated age of patient in years
CAGE_MO	Num(.x or 1)	Derived	Derived	Calculated age of patient in months
SEX	Char(1)	Item 3	Box 5	Sex
RPT_DATE	Date	Discontinued	Box 6	Date Form Completed
SYMPTOM_TEXT	Char(32,000)	Item 18	Box 7	Reported symptom text
DIED	Char(1)	Item 21	Box 8	Died
DATEDIED	Date	Item 21	Box 8	Date of Death
L_THREAT	Char(1)	Item 21	Box 8	Life-Threatening Illness
ER_VISIT	Char(1)	Discontinued	Box 8	Emergency Room or Doctor Visit
HOSPITAL	Char(1)	Item 21	Box 8	Hospitalized
HOSPDAYS	Num(3)	Item 21	Box 8	Number of days Hospitalized
X_STAY	Char(1)	Item 21	Box 8	Prolongation of Existing Hospitalization
DISABLE	Char(1)	Item 21	Box 8	Disability
RECOVD	Char(1)	Item 20	Box 9	Recovered
VAX_DATE	Date	Item 4	Box 10	Vaccination Date
ONSET_DATE	Date	Item 5	Box 11	Adverse Event Onset Date
NUMDAYS	Num(5)	Derived	Derived	Number of days (Onset date - Vax. Date)

Header	Type	VAERS 2 Form	VAERS 1 Form	Description of Contents
LAB_DATA	Char(32,000)	Item 19	Box 12	Diagnostic laboratory data
V_ADMINBY	Char(3)	Item 16	Box 15	Type of facility where vaccine was administered
V_FUNDBY	Char(3)	Discontinued	Box 16	Type of funds used to purchase vaccines
OTHER_MEDS	Char(240)	Item 9	Box 17	Other Medications
CUR_ILL	Char(32,000)	Item 11	Box 18	Illnesses at time of vaccination
HISTORY	Char(32,000)	Item 12	Box 19	Chronic or long-standing health conditions
PRIOR_VAX	Char(128)	Item 23	Box 21	Prior Vaccination Event information
SPLTTYPE	Char(25)	Item 26	Box 24	Manufacturer/Immunization Project Report Number
FORM_VERS	Num(1)			VAERS form version 1 or 2
TODAYS_DATE	Date	Item 7	X	Date Form Completed
BIRTH_DEFECT	Char(1)	Item 21	X	Congenital anomaly or birth defect
OFC_VISIT	Char(1)	Item 21	X	Doctor or other healthcare provider office/clinic visit
ER_ED_VISIT	Char(1)	Item 21	X	Emergency room/department or urgent care
ALLERGIES	Char(32,000)	Item 10	X	Allergies to medications, food, or other products

* The summation of the two variables CAGE_YR and CAGE_MO provide the calculated age of a person. For example, if CAGE_YR=1 and CAGE_MO=.5 then the age of the individual is 1.5 years or 1 year 6 months.

4.2 VAERSVAX.CSV

The fields described in this table provide the remaining vaccine information (e.g., vaccine name, manufacturer, lot number, route, site, and number of previous doses administered), for each of the vaccines listed in Item 17 (VAERS 2 form) or Box 13 (VAERS 1.0 form). The **VAERS 1** field VAX_DOSE was discontinued in the **VAERS 2** form; when a value exists, a 1 is added to equate to the VAX_DOSE_SERIES field. There is a matching record in this file with the VAERSDATA file identified by VAERS_ID.

Header	Type	Description of Contents
VAERS_ID	Num(6)	VAERS Identification Number
VAX_TYPE	Char(15)	Administered Vaccine Type
VAX_MANU	Char(40)	Vaccine Manufacturer
VAX_LOT	Char(15)	Manufacturer's Vaccine Lot
VAX_DOSE_SERIES	Char (3)	Number of doses administered
VAX_ROUTE	Char(6)	Vaccination Route
VAX_SITE	Char(6)	Vaccination Site
VAX_NAME	Char(100)	Vaccination Name

4.3 VAERSSYMPTOMS.CSV

The fields described in this table provide the adverse event coded terms utilizing the MedDRA dictionary. Coders will search for specific terms in Items 18 and 19 in **VAERS 2** form or Boxes 7 and 12 on the **VAERS 1** form and code them to a searchable and consistent MedDRA term; note that terms are included in the .csv file in alphabetical order. There can be an unlimited amount of coded terms for a given event. Each row in the .csv will contain up to 5 MedDRA terms per VAERS ID; thus, there could be multiple rows per VAERS ID. For each of the VAERS_ID's listed in the VAERSDATA.CSV table, there is a matching record in this file, identified by VAERS_ID.

Header	Type	Description of Contents
VAERS_ID	Num(6)	VAERS Identification Number
SYMPTOM1	Char(100)	Adverse Event MedDRA Term 1
SYMPTOMVERSION1	Num(XX.XX)	MedDRA dictionary version number 1
SYMPTOM2	Char(100)	Adverse Event MedDRA Term 1
SYMPTOMVERSION2	Num(XX.XX)	MedDRA dictionary version number 2
SYMPTOM3	Char(100)	Adverse Event MedDRA Term 3

SYMPTOMVERSION3	Num(XX.XX)	MedDRA dictionary version number 3
SYMPTOM4	Char(100)	Adverse Event MedDRA Term 4
SYMPTOMVERSION4	Num(XX.XX)	MedDRA dictionary version number 4
SYMPTOM5	Char(100)	Adverse Event MedDRA Term 5
SYMPTOMVERSION5	Num(XX.XX)	MedDRA dictionary version number 5

5. Definitions of Terms Used in Data Files

The following definitions pertain to the fields found in the three separate data files.

5.1 VAERSDATA.CSV

The following definitions pertain to the fields found in the VAERSDATA.CSV file described in section 4.1 above.

1) VAERS Identification Number (VAERS_ID): A sequentially assigned number used for identification purposes. It serves as a link between the three data files.

2) Receive Date (RECVDATE): The date the VAERS form information was received to our processing center.

3) State (STATE): The two-letter US Postal Service abbreviation for the home state of the vaccinee. Please note that all foreign reports are contained in a separate data file.

4) Age in Years (AGE_YRS): The recorded vaccine recipient's age in years.

5) Age in Years (CAGE_YR): Age of patient in years calculated by (vax_date-birthdate).

6) Age in Months (CAGE_MO): Age of patient in months calculated by (vax_date-birthdate) . The values for this variable range from 0 to <1. It is only calculated for patients age 2 years or less. The summation of the two variables CAGE_YR and CAGE_MO provide the calculated age of a person. For example, if CAGE_YR=1 and CAGE_MO=.5 then the age of the individual is 1.5 years or 1 year 6 months.

7) Sex (SEX): Sex of the vaccine recipient (M = Male, F = Female, Unknown = Blank).

8) Date Form Completed (RPT_DATE): Date the VAERS form was completed by the reporter as recorded on the specified field of the form. This is a **VAERS 1** form field only.

9) Reported Symptom Text (SYMPTOM_TEXT): This is the symptom text recorded in the form. MedDRA Terms are derived from this text and placed in the VAERSSYMPTOMS file.

10) Patient Outcomes: The reporter's assessment of the vaccine recipient outcome is recorded on the VAERS form. Selections checked in the form determine whether a report is considered to be a non-serious report, a serious report, or a death report.

- **Died (DIED):** If the vaccine recipient died a "Y" is used; otherwise the field will be blank.
- **Date of Death: (DATEDIED):** If the vaccine recipient died there is space in this field to record the date of death; otherwise the field will be blank.
- **Life Threatening (L_THREAT):** If the vaccine recipient had a life-threatening event associated with the vaccination a "Y" is placed is used; otherwise the field will be blank.
- **Emergency Room (ER_VISIT):** If the vaccine recipient required an emergency room or doctor visit a "Y" is placed in this field; otherwise the field will be blank. If this is the only option checked the report is not considered serious. This is a **VAERS 1** form field only.
- **Hospitalized (HOSPITAL):** If the vaccine recipient was hospitalized as a result of the vaccination a "Y" is used; otherwise the field will be blank.
- **Days Hospitalized (HOSPDAYS):** If the reporter checked that the vaccine recipient was hospitalized a space is provided in this field to record the number of days hospitalized; otherwise the field will be blank.
- **Prolonged Hospitalization (X_STAY):** If a patient's hospitalization is prolonged as a result of the adverse event associated with the vaccination a "Y" will be placed in this field; otherwise the field will be blank.
- **Disability (DISABLE):** If the vaccine recipient was disabled as a result of the vaccination a "Y" is placed in this field; otherwise the field will be blank.
- **Congenital Anomaly or Birth Defect (BIRTH_DEFECT):** If the vaccine recipient had a congenital anomaly or birth defect associated with the vaccination, a "Y" is used; otherwise the field will be blank**.** This is a **VAERS 2** form field only.
- **Doctor or other healthcare professional office/clinic visit:** If the vaccine recipient had a doctor or other healthcare professional

office/clinic visit associated with the vaccination a "Y" is used; otherwise the field will be blank**.** This is a **VAERS 2** form field only.

- **Emergency room/department or urgent care:** If the vaccine recipient had an emergency room/department or urgent care visit associated with the vaccination a "Y" is used; otherwise the field will be blank**.** This is a **VAERS 2** form field only.

11) Recovered (RECOVD): A "Y" is placed in the field if the vaccine recipient recovered from the adverse event. "N" indicates that the vaccinee has not recovered from the adverse event. "U" or blank indicates that the vaccine recipient's recovery status is unknown.

12) Vaccination Date (VAX_DATE): The date of vaccination as recorded in the specified field of the form.

13) Onset Date (ONSET_DATE): The date of the onset of adverse event symptoms associated with the vaccination as recorded in the specified field of the form.

14) Onset Interval (NUMDAYS): The calculated interval (in days) from the vaccination date to the onset date.

15) Relevant Diagnostic Tests/Laboratory Data (LAB_DATA): This text field contains narrative about any relevant diagnostic tests or laboratory results as recorded on the specified field of the form.

16) Vaccine Administered at (V_ADMINBY): The reporter may note on the VAERS form the type of facility administering the vaccine. The options are different depending on the form version; additional options were added on the **VAERS 2** form.

- **VAERS 1.0:** PUB=Public, PVT=Private, MIL=Military, OTH=Other, UNK=Unknown
- **VAERS 2.**0: PUB=Public, PVT=Private, MIL=Military, PHM=Pharmacy or store, SCH=School or student health clinic, SEN=Nursing home or senior living facility, WRK=Workplace clinic, OTH=Other, UNK=Unknown

17) Vaccine Purchased with (V_FUNDBY): This is a **VAERS 1** field only. The reporter may note in Box 16 on the VAERS form which type of funds were used to purchase the vaccines administered in Box 13 (PUB=Public, PVT=Private, MIL=Military; OTH=Other/Unknown).

18) Other Medications (OTHER_MEDS): This text field contains narrative about any prescription or non-prescription drugs the vaccine recipient was taking at the time of vaccination as recorded on the specified field of the form.

19) Current Illnesses (CUR_ILL): This text field contains narrative about any illnesses at the time of the vaccination as noted on the specified field of the form.

20) Pre-existing Conditions (HISTORY): This text field contains narrative about any pre-existing physician-diagnosed birth defects or medical condition that existed at the time of vaccination as noted on the specified field of the form. For the **VAERS 1** form, this field also includes pre-existing physician-diagnosed allergies.

21) Allergies to medications, food or other products (ALLERGIES): This text field contains narrative about any pre-existing physician-diagnosed allergies that existed at the time of vaccination as noted in the specified field of the form. This is a **VAERS 2** form field only.

22) Prior Vaccination Event Information (PRIOR_VAX): This field provides prior vaccination event information as recorded on the specified field of the form.

23) Manufacturer Number (SPLTTYPE): Manufacturer number or Immunization Project number as recorded on the specified field of the form.

5.2 VAERSVAX.CSV

The following definitions pertain to the fields found in the VAERSVAX.CSV file described in section 4.2 above. Except for VAERS_ID, the information reflects Item 17 on **VAERS 2** form or Box 13 on **VAERS 1** form.

1) VAERS Identification Number (VAERS_ID): A sequentially assigned number used for identification purposes. It serves as a link between the three data files.

2) Vaccine Type (VAX_TYPE): The data list the vaccines group name by code. Similar vaccines are grouped together (e.g., FLU, DTAP).

Vaccine Code	Vaccine Type
6VAX-F	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS ADSORBED + INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS + HEPATITIS B + HAEMOPHILUS B CONJUGATE VACCINE
ADEN	ADENOVIRUS VACCINE LIVE ORAL TYPE 7
ADEN_4_7	ADENOVIRUS TYPE 4 & 7 VACCINE, LIVE ORAL

ANTH	ANTHRAX VACCINE
BCG	BACILLUS CALMETTE-GUERIN VACCINE
CEE	CENTRAL EUROPEAN ENCEPHALITIS
CHOL	CHOLERA VACCINE
DF	DENGUE FEVER VACCINE
DPIPV	DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS + INACTIVATED POLIO VIRUS
DPP	DIPHTHERIA/PERTUSSIS/POLIO (ORAL [LIVE OR INACTIVATED NOT NOTED])
DT	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS, PEDIATRIC
DTAP	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE
DTAPH	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE + HAEMOPHILUS B CONJUGATE VACCINE
DTAPHEPBIP	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE + HEPATITIS B + INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS VACCINE
DTAPIPV	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE + INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS VACCINE
DTAPIPVHIB	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE + INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS VACCINE + HAEMOPHILUS B CONJUGATE VACCINE
DTIPV	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS, PEDIATRIC + INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS VACCINE
DTOX	DIPHTHERIA TOXOID
DTP	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND PERTUSSIS VACCINE
DTPHEP	DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS + HEPATITIS B
DTPHIB	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND PERTUSSIS VACCINE + HAEMOPHILUS B CONJUGATE VACCINE
DTPIHI	DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS/WHOLE PERTUSSIS + INACTIVATED POLIO VIRUS + HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZA B
DTPIPV	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND PERTUSSIS VACCINE + INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS VACCINE
DTPPHIB	DIPHTHERIA AND TETANUS TOXOIDS AND PERTUSSIS VACCINE + INACTIVATED POLIOVIRUS VACCINE + HAEMOPHILUS B CONJUGATE VACCINE (TETANUS TOXOID CONJUGATE)
EBZR	EBOLA ZAIRE VACCINE
FLU(H1N1)	INFLUENZA (H1N1) MONOVALENT
FLU3	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, TRIVALENT
FLU4	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, QUADRIVALENT

FLUA3	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, TRIVALENT, ADJUVANT
FLUA4	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, QUADRIVALENT, ADJUVANT
FLUC3	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, TRIVALENT, CELL-CULTURE-DERIVED
FLUC4	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, QUADRIVALENT, CELL-CULTURE-DERIVED
FLUN(H1N1)	INFLUENZA (H1N1) MONOVALENT (NASAL SPRAY)
FLUN3	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE (NASAL SPRAY)
FLUN4	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE QUADRIVALENT (NASAL SPRAY)
FLUR3	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, TRIVALENT, RECOMBINANT
FLUR4	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, QUADRIVALENT, RECOMBINANT
FLUX	INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE, UNKNOWN MANUFACTURER
FLUX(H1N1)	INFLUENZA (H1N1) MONOVALENT, UNKNOWN MANUFACTURER
H5N1	PANDEMIC FLU VACCINE
HBHEPB	HAEMOPHILUS B CONGUGATE VACCINE + HEPATITIS B
HBPV	HAEMOPHILUS B POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE
HEP	HEPATITIS B VIRUS VACCINE
HEPA	HEPATITIS A
HEPAB	HEPATITIS A + HEPATITIS B
HEPATYP	INACTIVATED HEPATITIS A + TYPHOID POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE ADSORBED
HIBV	HAEMOPHILUS B CONJUGATE VACCINE
HPV2	HUMAN PAPILLOMAVAVIRUS BIVALENT
HPV4	HUMAN PAPILLOMAVAVIRUS QUADRIVALENT
HPV9	HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS 9-VALENT
HPVX	HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (NO BRAND NAME)
IPV	POLIOVIRUS VACCINE INACTIVATED
JEV	JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS VACCINE, INACTIVATED
JEV1	JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS VACCINE, INACTIVATED
JEVX	JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS VACCINE (NO BRAND NAME)
LYME	LYME DISEASE VACCINE
MEA	MEASLES
MEN	MENINGOCOCCAL POLYSACCHARIDE VACCINE
MENB	MENINGOCOCCAL GROUP B VACCINE, rDNA ABSORBED
MENHIB	MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE + HIB
MER	MEASLES AND RUBELLA VIRUS VACCINE, LIVE
MM	MEASLES AND MUMPS VIRUS VACCINE, LIVE
MMR	MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA VIRUS VACCINE, LIVE
MMRV	MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA AND VARICELLA VACCINE LIVE
MNC	MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE

MNQ	MENINGOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE
MNQHIB	MENINGOCOCCAL GROUPS C AND Y + HAEMOPHILUS B TETANUS TOXOID CONJUGATE VACCINE
MU	MUMPS VIRUS VACCINE, LIVE
MUR	MUMPS AND RUBELLA VIRUS VACCINE, LIVE
OPV	POLIOVIRUS VACCINE TRIVALENT, LIVE, ORAL
PER	PERTUSSIS VACCINE
PLAGUE	PLAGUE VACCINE
PNC	PNEUMOCOCCAL 7-VALENT CONJUGATE VACCINE
PNC10	PNEUMOCOCCAL 10-VALENT CONJUGATE VACCINE
PNC13	PNEUMOCOCCAL 13-VALENT CONJUGATE VACCINE
PPV	PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE, POLYVALENT
RAB	RABIES VIRUS VACCINE
RUB	RUBELLA
RV	ROTAVIRUS VACCINE, LIVE, ORAL, TETRAVALENT
RV1	ROTAVIRUS VACCINE, LIVE, ORAL
RV5	ROTAVIRUS VACCINE, LIVE, ORAL, PENTAVALENT
RVX	ROTAVIRUS (NO BRAND NAME)
SMALL	SMALLPOX VACCINE
SMALLMNK	SMALLPOX + MONKEYPOX VACCINE
SSEV	SPRING/SUMMER ENCEPHALITIS VACCINE
TBE	TICK-BORNE ENCEPHALITIS VACCINE
TD	TETANUS AND DIPHTHERIA TOXOIDS, ADULT
TDAP	TETANUS TOXOID, REDUCED DIPHTHERIA TOXOID AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS VACCINE, ADSORBED
TDAPIPV	TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA AND ACELLULAR PERTUSSIS, AND INACTIVATED POLIO VIRUS
TTOX	TETANUS TOXOID
TYP	TYPHOID VACCINE
UNK	UNKNOWN VACCINE TYPE
VARCEL	VARIVAX-VARICELLA VIRUS LIVE
VARZOS	VARICELLA-ZOSTER VACCINE
YF	YELLOW FEVER VACCINE

3) Vaccine Manufacturer (VAX_MANU): This field identifies the manufacturer of the each of the vaccines listed.

4) Manufacturers Vaccine Lot (VAX_LOT): This field identified the lot number of the vaccines listed.

5) Doses administered (VAERS_DOSE_SERIES): This field identifies the vaccine dose of the recorded vaccines listed. The **VAERS 1** field VAX_DOSE was discontinued in the **VAERS 2** form; when a value exists, a 1 is added to equate to the VAX_DOSE_SERIES field.

6) Vaccination Route (VAX_ROUTE): This field identifies the vaccine route of administration.

Abbreviation	Route
UN	Unknown
ID	Intradermal
IM	Intramuscular
SC	Subcutaneous
IN	Intranasal
PO	Per Oral
SYR	Needle and syringe (not specified further)
JET	Needle free jet injector device
OT	Other

7) Vaccination Site (VAX_SITE): This field identified the anatomic site where the vaccination was administered.

8) Vaccine Name (VAX_NAME): This field provides the brand name of the vaccine administered.

5.3 VAERSSYMPTOMS.CSV

The following definitions pertain to the fields found in the VAERSSYMPTOMS.CSV file described in section 4.3 above.

1) VAERS Identification Number (VAERS_ID): A sequentially assigned number used for identification purposes. It serves as a link between the three data files.

2) MedDRA Term (SYMPTOM1-5): The data in these fields are equivalent to the PT TERM from the MedDRA codebook. MedDRA terms are extracted from the narrative text in **VAERS 2** (Item 18 and 19) and **VAERS 1** (Box 7 and 12). Duplicates may appear in data and terms are listed in alphabetical order. In case a report has more than 5 terms multiple rows with 5 terms each will be listed for that VAERS ID.

3) MedDRA Term Version (SYMPTOMVERSION1-5): Version of MedDRA dictionary from which the MedDRA term was first created.

7. Downloadable VAERS Data Sets Disclaimer

Please note that VAERS staff follow-up on all serious and other selected adverse event reports to obtain additional medical, laboratory, and/or autopsy records to help understand the concern raised. However, in general coding terms in VAERS do not change based on the information received during the follow-up process. VAERS data should be used with caution as numbers and conditions do not reflect data collected during follow-up. Note that the inclusion of events in VAERS data does not infer causality.