

Title	Vaccine Safety in South Australia
Location	004/05/0411 www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index.htm
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References	NHMRC <i>The Australian Immunisation Handbook</i> 9th Edition 2008 ¹

3.1 In South Australia, vaccine safety is monitored using a passive enhanced surveillance and reporting system of adverse events following immunisation

3.1.1 Definition of an Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI)

An AEFI is an unwanted or unexpected adverse event occurring after the administration of a vaccine(s). Such an event may be caused by the vaccine(s) or may occur by chance after vaccination (i.e. it would have occurred regardless of vaccination). Most vaccines cause minor adverse events such as low-grade fever, pain, redness and swelling at the injection site. These should be anticipated. For more information refer to the 'Adverse events', 'Precautions' and 'Contraindications' sections of each vaccine chapter in the Immunisation Handbook¹.

3.1.2 Distinguishing between a common expected reaction and a Rare/Serious adverse event following immunisation

A common expected reaction does not need to be reported to the Immunisation Section. If the common reaction becomes significant or exceeds the common reaction parameters, they should be reported to the Immunisation Section. Rare or unexpected adverse events must also be reported.

3.2 Reporting an Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI)

3.2.1 All vaccine recipients/ parents/ caregivers should be encouraged to notify the immunisation provider or the Immunisation Section if an AEFI occurs that is considered serious and/or may have affected confidence in any future immunisation requirements which may be related to the vaccine(s) administered:

Contact the Immunisation Section on 1300 232 272 (Monday to Friday – 8:30am to 5:00pm)

3. 2.1 A '**Vaccine safety information**' leaflet, providing information and advice, should be given to the vaccine recipient/ parent/ caregiver following **each** immunisation encounter. For additional copies of the leaflets please contact the Immunisation Section 1300 232 272 or www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index.htm



3.2.2 All immunisation providers are encouraged to notify the Immunisation Section if an unexpected or serious AEFI occurs.

Providers can submit an AEFI report to the Immunisation Section directly by phone on 1300 232 272 or by fax on (08) 8226 7197.

An AEFI reporting form is available at:

www.health.sa.gov.au/pehs/immunisation-index.htm.

3.2.3 Enhanced Surveillance

All AEFI reports received by the Immunisation Section are reviewed. Please complete all details on the Vaccine Safety Reporting Form, including consent to be contacted by the Immunisation Section as the AEFI may require further follow-up.

3.3 In South Australia, a Special Immunisation Service (SIS) is offered by the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) for those infants, children and adolescents who require a specialist assessment prior to continuing their immunisation schedule

Indications for SIS referral:

- 3.3.1 Infants, children and adolescents who have experienced a possible or a confirmed AEFI which may include the following symptoms:
- Seizures
 - Anaphylaxis
 - Hypotonic-Hyporesponsive Episode (HHE)
 - Generalised skin rash
 - Apnoea
- 3.3.2 Infants, children and adolescents who have experienced a possible or a confirmed AEFI that:
- has resulted in hospitalisation
 - has been referred by a General Practitioner (GP) or Specialist
 - will prevent a child from being re-immunised despite advice from GP, the Immunisation Section or Specialist
- 3.3.3 Children with underlying medical conditions that may increase the risk of an AEFI including:
- non-vaccine related multiple drug allergies of concern to a GP or Specialist
 - post-chemotherapy or bone marrow transplant
 - any other condition considered by GP or Specialist to place the child at increased risk of experiencing an AEFI

Note: Individuals with a serious (i.e. anaphylactic) sensitivity to eggs can safely be given the MMR vaccine. This vaccine is not an indication for attendance at SIS except where parental concern is such that they are considering not completing the schedule (*p207 Immunisation Handbook*)

Immunisation Policy Document

Contact

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