ADVERSE EVENT RELATED TO VACCINATION WITH PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE

Nationwide distribution of the first COVID-19 vaccine started December 14, 2020. U.S. CDC has since received reports that some people have experienced severe allergic reactions—also known as anaphylaxis—after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. An allergic reaction is considered severe when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or an EpiPen® or if they must go to a hospital for emergent care.

On Tuesday, December 22, 2020, Maine Medical Center reported an instance of a severe allergic reaction in an individual who had just received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The individual’s past medical history was significant for severe allergic reactions and eosinophilic asthma. The individual experienced nausea, diaphoresis, and a dry cough that progressed to shortness of breath. The individual received epinephrine, was transported to the Maine Medical Center ED for monitoring, and is doing well.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VACCINE PROVIDERS

Severe allergic reactions to COVID-19 vaccine can occur in any recipient, but those with a history of allergic reactions should be closely monitored. CDC has provided recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination providers about how to prepare for the possibility of a severe allergic reaction:

- All people who get a COVID-19 vaccine should be monitored on-site.
- People with a history of severe allergic reactions should be monitored for 30 minutes after getting the vaccine.
- All other people should be monitored for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.
- Vaccination providers should have appropriate medications and equipment—such as epinephrine, antihistamines, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs—at all COVID-19 vaccination sites.
- If a vaccine recipient experiences a severe allergic reaction after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, vaccination providers should provide rapid care and call for emergency medical services. The individual should be monitored in a medical facility for at least several hours.
If someone has a severe allergic reaction after getting vaccinated, the provider must send a report to the Vaccine Adverse Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS is the national system that collects reports from healthcare professionals, vaccine manufacturers, and the public about adverse events that happen after vaccination.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- U.S. CDC’s COVID-19 vaccine website [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html)