REPORTING OF ADVERSE VACCINE REACTIONS

Policy:

All adverse vaccine reactions reported to the OPH offices will be investigated and the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System form (VAERS-1) must be forwarded to the Immunization Program office in New Orleans. Immediately (within 24 hours) upon a patient's report or occurrence of adverse events following vaccination, the vaccine provider must submit a VAERS report to the Program Office for further investigation and followup to be conducted. Once the VAERS report is submitted to the Program Office, the case report shall be assigned with a Louisiana ID number prior to submission to the VAERS system. This information is reported as part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveillance system.

Vaccine adverse events for vaccines administered in the public sector should be reported on the VAERS-1 form followed by submission of the original form to the Immunization Program. The information required on the form should be complete and not detained for further follow-up. Vaccine adverse events reported by the private sector should be reported directly to the VAERS system.

Rationale:

Reporting of adverse vaccine reactions provides knowledge about rare side effects of vaccine, and allows OPH to better inform clients about the side effects of vaccine and ways to reduce reactions. Should it become necessary to withdraw a vaccine lot number, the information from the adverse event's lot number and expiration date becomes very important.