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## CDC Ignores Inquiry Into Increasing Number of Deaths, Injuries Reported After COVID Vaccines

VAERS data released today showed 38,444 reports of adverse events following COVID vaccines, including 1,739 deaths and 6,286 serious injuries since Dec. 14, 2020.

By Megan Redshaw



Data released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the number of injuries and deaths reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) following COVID vaccines showed 38,444 reports of adverse events since Dec. 14, 2020.

On March 8, [The Defender](#) contacted the CDC with questions about how the agency is investigating reports of deaths and injuries after COVID vaccines. We provided a written list of questions asking the status of investigations on deaths reported in the media, if autopsies are being done, the standard for determining whether an injury is causally connected to a vaccine and the known issues with VAERS — namely whether healthcare providers are reporting all injuries and deaths that might be connected to the COVID vaccine, and what education initiatives are in place to encourage and facilitate proper and accurate reporting. We asked for a reply within two days.

As of today, 11 days later, the CDC has not answered our questions. Instead, when we call them, they respond saying, "they have received our email, they will escalate it and it is in the system." When we asked if we could speak with the person reviewing the email, we were told that information could not be provided. When we emailed them to follow up, we received no response.

Every Friday, VAERS makes public all vaccine injury reports received by the system as of Friday of the previous week. The 34,444 adverse events reported between Dec. 14, 2020, and March 11 include 1,739 deaths and 6,286 serious injuries.

This week's data included reports of 478 cases of Bell's Palsy. Of those, 66% of cases were reported after Pfizer-BioNTech vaccinations — almost twice as many as reported (36%) following vaccination with the Moderna vaccine.

The first Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID vaccine was administered in the U.S. on March 2. As of March 11, nine anaphylactic reactions associated with J&J's vaccine had been reported to VAERS. As [The Defender](#) reported earlier this month, the J&J vaccine contains polysorbate 80, known to trigger allergic reactions. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines contain polyethylene glycol (PEG), also known to trigger anaphylactic reactions.

In the U.S., 98.2 million COVID vaccine doses had been administered as of March 11.

### From the 3/11/2021 release of VAERS data: Found 38,444 cases where Vaccine is COVID19

Event Outcome	Count	Percent
Death	1,739	4.52%
Permanent Disability	734	1.91%
Office Visit	5,837	15.18%
Emergency Room	27	0.07%
Emergency Doctor/Room	6,689	17.4%
Hospitalized	3,968	10.32%
Hospitalized, Prolonged	9	0.02%
Recovered	14,120	36.75%
Birth Defect	48	0.12%
Life Threatening	1,205	3.13%
Not Serious	14,112	36.71%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148,426</b>	<b>1128.14%</b>

† Because some cases have multiple vaccinations and symptoms, a single case can account for multiple entries in this table. This is the reason why the Total Count is greater than 38444 (the number of cases found), and the Total Percentage is greater than 100.

VAERS is the primary mechanism for reporting adverse vaccine reactions in the U.S. Reports submitted to VAERS require further investigation before a causal relationship can be confirmed.

For the most part, today's data reflect trends that have emerged since [The Defender](#) first began tracking VAERS reports related to COVID vaccines.

This week's VAERS data show:

- Of the 1,739 deaths reported as of March 11, 30% occurred within 48 hours of vaccination, 21% occurred within 24 hours, and 46% occurred in people who became ill within 48 hours of being vaccinated. By comparison, during the same period, there were only 85 deaths reported following flu vaccines.
- Nineteen percent of deaths were related to cardiac disorders.
- Fifty-three percent of those who died were male, 44% were female and the remaining death reports did not include gender of the deceased.
- The average age of those who died was 77.9 and the youngest death was an 18-year-old.
- As of March 11, 289 pregnant women had reported adverse events related to COVID vaccines, including 90 reports of miscarriage or premature birth. None of the COVID vaccines approved for Emergency Use Authorization has been confirmed safe or effective for pregnant women, although J&J said earlier this month it would begin testing on pregnant women, infants and the immunocompromised.
- There were 1,689 reports of anaphylaxis, with 59% of cases attributed to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 41% to Moderna.

The average age of death reported remains 77.9, however the youngest reported death this week dropped from 23 to 18. According to VAERS, the teenager developed fatigue, body aches and a headache one day after receiving the Moderna vaccine on March 3. On March 5 he complained of chest pain, and died in his sleep later that day.

The latest data also includes the report of a 22-year-old woman with a "significant, lifelong underlying medical condition" who died 24 days after the vaccine.

According to the CDC's website, "the CDC follows up on any report of death to request additional information and learn more about what occurred and to determine whether the death was a result of the vaccine or unrelated."

To date, the only information the CDC has published related to the investigation of COVID vaccine-related deaths and how those investigations were conducted is a COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Update via the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published on Jan. 27.

The safety update analyzed only the 198 reported deaths that occurred within the first month after the first COVID vaccine was administered in the U.S. It is unknown whether the CDC has investigated any of the 1,541 reported deaths since or, if investigations were conducted, what the results showed.

On March 16, [The Defender](#) reported that more than 20 countries suspended use of AstraZeneca's COVID vaccine after reports of blood clots, some resulting in death, in healthy people who received the vaccine. The World Health Organization (WHO) said an ongoing analysis by its vaccines advisory committee had not established a causal link between the vaccine and blood clots and that countries should keep using it.

On March 18, the European Medicine Agency (EMA) released the results of its investigation into the AstraZeneca vaccine. The EMA said Thursday the vaccine "may be associated with very rare cases of blood clots," but the agency still considers it to be "safe and effective" and

countries should continue to use it.

The EMA determined AstraZeneca's vaccine was not associated with an "overall risk" of blood clots in those vaccinated and there was no evidence of a problem related to specific batches of the vaccine or manufacturing sites, The Defender reported.

[According to Reuters](#), about a dozen countries resumed use of AstraZeneca's COVID vaccine today, including Germany, Indonesia and France as EU and British regulators said the benefits outweighed any risks of potential blood clots. AstraZeneca's vaccine is not yet approved for emergency use in the U.S.

On March 18, [The Defender reported](#) Pfizer's chief financial officer told analysts and investors during a recent earnings call that the company plans to turn its COVID vaccine with German company BioNTech into an even bigger cash cow once the pandemic ends.

Pfizer's vaccine is already the second-highest revenue-generating drug in the world. The vaccine maker expects revenues of \$15 billion in 2021 based on current contracts for its [COVID vaccine](#), but that number could double as Pfizer says it can potentially deliver 2 billion doses this year.

Leaked documents obtained as a result of a cyberattack on the EMA and reviewed by [The BMJ](#) revealed regulators had major concerns over unexpectedly low quantities of intact mRNA in batches of the Pfizer's COVID vaccine developed for commercial production, [as reported this week by The Defender](#).

A leaked email identified "a significant difference in % RNA integrity/truncated species" between the clinical batches and proposed commercial batches — from around 78% to 55%. Pfizer was not manufacturing vaccines to the specifications expected, and the impact of this loss of RNA integrity on safety and efficacy of the vaccine was not identified, according to the email. The EMA responded by filing two "major objections" with Pfizer, along with a host of other questions it wanted addressed. It's unclear if the agency's concerns were satisfied.

[Children's Health Defense](#) asks anyone who has experienced an adverse reaction, to any vaccine, to file a report following [these three steps](#).

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Megan Redshaw is a freelance reporter for The Defender. She has a background in political science, a law degree and extensive training in natural health.

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