

# Frequently Asked Questions: Lost Records and Extra Doses

I cannot find my child's immunization record. What should I do?

**Parents should keep track of their child's vaccination history.** In most states parents, not doctors, are responsible for providing vaccination records to the health department and schools. Ask your doctor or clinic to give you an immunization record book to track your child's history. Bring this record with you each time you see the doctor. Ask the doctor to sign and date the record when a vaccination is given to keep the information current and correct. It will also help if you move to a new area, change pediatricians, or when your child starts daycare or school. Sample immunization records are available online at <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2022.pdf>.

**Unfortunately, no central bank of vaccination records exists.** The only records that exist are the ones given to you and the ones in the medical record of your doctor or clinic. Check these places if you cannot locate your record:

- Your doctor or public health clinic.
- Your local or state health department's immunization program. They might have an immunization registry with your child's information.
- Your child's school. These records are sometimes kept for a year or 2.
- For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/immuniz-records.htm>.
- If you cannot find your records, you may have to repeat some vaccines or have blood tests to determine your immunity.

Is it OK to receive an extra dose of vaccine?

No long-term effects have been reported as a result of extra doses of any vaccines.

Reactions to extra doses are similar to those from any dose of that vaccine. If a serious allergic reaction to a vaccine were to occur, it would most likely be within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot. Signs can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness. If a high fever or seizure were to occur, it would usually be within a week after the shot.

If you notice these symptoms: call your doctor, or get your child to a doctor right away. Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given. Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form, or call VAERS yourself at 1-800-822-7967.

The information contained in this document should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

