



Updates on adverse events following immunization with influenza vaccines

October 31, 2020

- A total of 1,669 cases of adverse events following influenza vaccination have been reported this year (as of 0:00 31 October). Causality to vaccination has not been found.
- As of 0:00 31 October, a total of 83 deaths have been reported as adverse event following influenza vaccination.
 - 72 have been determined as having low causal link between death and vaccination based on epidemiological investigation and deliberation by the Injury Investigation Group.
 - 11 are under epidemiological investigation.

Reports of deaths following influenza immunization (as of 0:00, 31 October 2020)

Total	Sex		Age group			
	Male	Female	Under 60	60-69	70-79	80 and above
83	46	37	8	4	37	34

Total	City							
	Seoul	Busan	Daegu	Incheon	Gwangju	Daejeon	Ulsan	Sejong
83	13	3	8	2	1	3	0	0

Province								
Gyeonggi	Gangwon	Chung-buk	Chung-nam	Jeon-buk	Jeon-nam	Gyeong-buk	Gyeong-nam	Jeju
12	2	2	4	8	8	6	10	1

* Number of reported deaths during the period from October 16 to October 31, 2020 (00:00)

Date of report of death	Total	Vaccination date												Time elapsed from vaccination to death			
		~ Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24	Oct 25	Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	~ 24h	24~ 48h	48~ 72h	72h ~
Total	83	5	41	19	9	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	13	20	13	37
~10.19	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
10.19~25	59	4	34	12	8	1	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	11	14	11	23
10.26~30	23	-	7	7	1	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	2	5	2	14

- The investigation group rapid response meeting held on 29 October reviewed the 25 additional deaths and assessed that all 25 to have very low causal association between death and vaccination.
- The investigation group rapid response meeting held on 30 October reviewed the 1 additional death and assessed that there was very low causal association between death and vaccination.



KDCA

Korea Disease Control and
Prevention Agency

Updates on adverse events following immunization with influenza vaccines

31 October 2020

- Epidemiological investigation, autopsies, medical records, and/or examination records of the individual cases show that (a) there was no finding of adverse reactions to vaccine at the time of death among all deaths; (b) causes of deaths are likely to be due to worsening of underlying diseases (such as cardiovascular diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic liver disease, chronic renal failure, arrhythmia, chronic pulmonary diseases, malignant tumors, etc.); (c) autopsies show other obvious cause of death (aortic dissection, acute myocardial infarction, cerebral hemorrhage, pulmonary thromboembolism, etc.); and/or (d) clinically there were other causes of death (asphyxia, septic shock, pneumonia, renal failure, etc.). On the basis of the above findings, all 72 deaths reviewed so far (up to 30 October) are assessed to have very low causal link to vaccination. Retesting of vaccines or suspension of the National Immunization Program is not to be considered at this stage.

- 11 deaths (reported on 29-30 October) are under investigation.

- Of the 83 deaths reported up to 30 October, National Forensic Service has performed autopsies on 40 cases. Autopsies were not performed on 33 cases. The remaining 10 cases are pending confirmation.

- KDCA recommended the general public to take time to receive immunization in good health condition, for this season's influenza duration and scale is projected to likely be relatively small and delayed in comparison to previous years.

- KDCA also emphasized the precautions for immunization, recommending the public to drink plenty of water while waiting to receive vaccination and to disclose any pain, chronic conditions, or history of allergic reactions to the healthcare provider prior to receiving vaccination and to stay in the clinic or hospital for 15-30 minutes after receiving the vaccine for observation for any possible adverse reactions and to take sufficient rest on the day of immunization.

- Temporary minor reactions to vaccination such as topical pain on the vaccinated spot, reddish swelling, edema, muscle pain, fever, or nausea are common and will usually disappear within 1-2 days. However, in the event of shortness of breath, rashes, or severe dizziness following immunization, medical attention should be sought immediately.