

## About Vaccines



**I was given a shot at the mass dispensing site, what was it for?**

If you were given a shot, then you were given a vaccine. A vaccine is given to keep you from getting sick from a certain disease.

### **Why was I given a vaccine?**

You were given a vaccine because you have been, or could be, exposed to something that can make you very sick. This vaccine will help to keep you from getting sick.

### **It's a little red and swollen where I got the shot. Is that normal?**

It may be red, swollen or sore where you were given the shot. This is normal. If the area is very swollen, there are red lines going up your arm, or you feel sick with a fever, contact your doctor or local health department right away.

## Questions?



You may have questions about the medicine that you have been given. For more information, please call your local health department or visit these websites:

**Connecticut Department of Public Health**  
<http://www.ct.gov/dph>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/preparedness/>



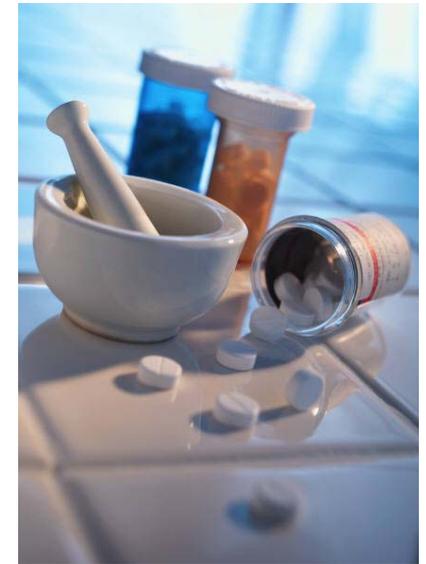
410 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Phone: 860-509-8000  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

## State of Connecticut



### **Mass Dispensing** After the POD: What Do I Do Next?



Tel: 860-509-8000  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

## Why Do I Have To Take This?



You may have been given either a shot (vaccine) or medicine to take home (antibiotic or antiviral). This medicine has been given to you to keep you

from getting sick or to make you feel better.

If you were given medicine to take home, it is important that you take it **EXACTLY** as it tells you on the package that it came in. You will be given a “Patient Information” sheet that tells you about the medicine you are taking. Keep the “Patient Information” sheet in a safe place since it has important information on it. If you lose it, or need it in another language, please contact your local or state health department for another copy.

Listen to local news reports for information on the emergency and anything else you need to do.

## About Antibiotics and Antivirals

**I was given medicine to take home.**

**What kind of medicine is this?**

If you were given medicine to take home, you may have been given an antibiotic or an antiviral. It may come as a pill or liquid. An antibiotic works by helping your body fight off bacteria that can make you sick. An antiviral works by helping your body fight a virus that could make you sick. They can be used to make you feel better or to keep you from getting sick.

**How should I take it?**



The “Patient Information” sheet that was given to you will tell you how to take your medicine. In order for the medicine to work, you should make sure you take it **EXACTLY**

as it tells you on the package that it came in. It is important that you take the medicine when you are supposed to and don’t miss any doses. If you do not take it as it says, then you may get very sick. Make sure to keep this medicine somewhere safe and away from children.

**I’m feeling better, can I stop taking it?**

It is very important that you finish all of the medicine that is given to you, even if you feel okay. Do not cut back or stop taking your medicine without talking to your doctor or local health department first to make sure it is okay. If you don’t finish all of your medicine, it will not work or you could get very sick.

**What about side effects?**

The “Patient Information” sheet lists side effects that you may have from taking this medicine. If you have any of the serious side effects listed in the “Patient Information” sheet, you should call your doctor or local health department right away.

**The pill is too big for me and hard to swallow. Can I crush it or cut it in half?**

Depending on the type of medicine you were given, you may not be able to crush it or cut it in half. It may not work if it is crushed or cut in half. Call your doctor or local health department to learn ways to make it easier to take your medicine or to see if you can get it in a liquid.