



ALL ABOUT VACCINES



THE IMMUNIZATION PARTNERSHIP

What are vaccines?

Vaccines are like a superhero training for your body's defense system to prevent sickness before it even starts. They teach your body how to recognize and fight off bad germs, like viruses and bacteria, to keep you from getting sick.¹

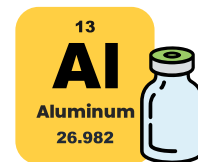


Do vaccines contain harmful ingredients?

No. Vaccines include ingredients that help them work safely and stay effective. All ingredients are carefully tested and used in very small amounts.

Do vaccines for children have mercury?

No. Thimerosal, a preservative that contains a form of mercury, was removed from routine childhood vaccines in 2001. Some multi-dose flu vaccines may still contain it to prevent contamination. Thimerosal-free flu vaccines are available upon request.³

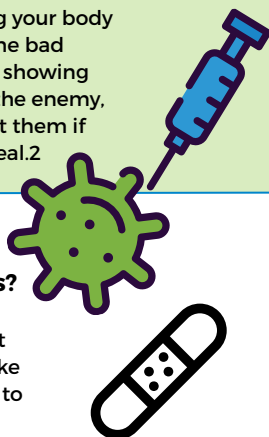


Why do vaccines have aluminum?

Aluminum helps make vaccines stronger so your body can fight off germs better. It's been used for a long time and is safe for our bodies. There's more aluminum in stuff like breastmilk than in a vaccine!⁴

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work by giving your body a sneak peek at what the bad germs look like. It's like showing your body a picture of the enemy, so it knows how to fight them if they ever show up for real.²



How long are vaccines studied?

Scientists study vaccines for a really long time, making sure they're safe and work well. Even after they're approved, they keep checking to be extra sure they're still safe. Vaccines are also, extensively and continuously studied.⁵



Do vaccines contain live viruses?

Some do, but they're weakened so they can't make us sick. They're like practice for our bodies to fight off the real thing.

Do vaccines weaken the immune system?

Nope, they actually make it stronger! Vaccines help our bodies learn how to fight off the bad germs.

Can vaccines cause autism?

No. Extensive research has shown that vaccines do not cause autism. Large studies involving thousands of children have found no link between vaccines and autism.



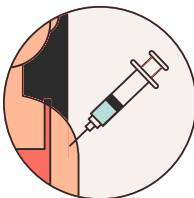
Why are vaccines given to babies and young children?

Babies and little kids need extra protection because their bodies are still learning how to fight germs. Vaccines help keep them safe from getting really sick.⁶



Do vaccines cause harmful side effects?

Sometimes they can cause a little soreness where you got the shot or a small fever, but that's usually it. It's like a tiny bump on the road to staying healthy.⁷



What is herd immunity?

Herd immunity happens when enough people are vaccinated that diseases cannot spread easily. This creates a protective "wall" for the whole community.⁸

Do vaccines have long-term effects on health?

Nope, vaccines just help us stay healthier for longer by keeping away diseases.

Can vaccines cause allergic reactions?

Very rarely. Allergic reactions are not unique to vaccines. Serious reactions are uncommon. If you've had a serious reaction in the past, speak with your doctor first.



How do vaccines help stop the spread of disease?

Vaccines make a shield inside our bodies that fights off germs. When enough people have this shield, it's harder for diseases to spread from person to person.



Why should I vaccinate my child if others are vaccinated?

Vaccinating your child gives them direct protection, even if others are vaccinated. If they do get sick, the illness is usually milder.



1 <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/vaccines-and-immunization-what-is-vaccination>
2 https://www.pfizer.com/news/articles/how_vaccines_work_immune_response_and_the_body_s_reaction
3 <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/thimerosal/index.html>
4 <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-ingredients/aluminum>

5 <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/infographics/journey-of-child-vaccine.html>
6 <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/why-vaccinate/vaccine-decision.html>
7 <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/side-effects.htm>
8 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2772168>