

Know the facts about immunizations



Protect Yours

Kids share viruses better than most things. You can protect your kids from serious diseases that spread when kids share viruses by getting them immunized.

Make an informed decision: Know the facts!

Q. Do immunizations work?

A. Since the beginning of the 20th century, immunizations have saved millions of lives. Before that, hundreds of thousands of children were infected and thousands died in the United States each year from diseases that are now prevented by immunizations. In countries where people are not immunized, hundreds of thousands of children die from rotavirus (527,000 in 2004) and from measles (197,000 in 2007) each year. Without immunizations, diseases like polio and measles could once again threaten children in the United States.

Find more information about this topic at:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/why.htm

Q. Are too many immunizations overwhelming to an infant's immune system?

A. A healthy infant's immune system is strong. Every day a baby is exposed to many viruses and bacteria, and the immune system has millions of cells to fight infections caused by them. It is estimated that an infant's immune system can theoretically handle thousands of immunizations per day. An infant's immune system can safely handle all the recommended childhood immunizations.

Find more information about this topic at:
www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/multiplevaccines.htm

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Q. What about autism?

A. Doctors and scientists have carefully and thoroughly reviewed the evidence and have found NO link between immunizations and autism. In three separate rulings on February 12, 2009, each of the special legal, medical, and scientific groups evaluated the evidence and found that immunizations are NOT associated with the development of autism or autism spectrum disorders.

Find more information about this topic at:
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/

Q. What about mercury (Thimerosal)?

A. Mercury is a naturally occurring element and is found in air, water, our bodies and even in breast milk. Today's immunizations do not contain thimerosal (a mercury containing preservative). The exception is the influenza immunization which contains trace amounts, even less than what is naturally found in breast milk. The small amounts of mercury found in breast milk and influenza immunizations are not enough to outweigh the benefits your baby receives from breast milk and influenza immunizations.

Find more information about this topic at:
www.who.int/phe/news/Mercury-flyer.pdf

For more information about immunizations,
visit the sites below.

Spokane Regional Health District
www.protectyours.org

Immunization Action Coalition
www.immunize.org

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/vaccines



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