

**Vaccines teach your immune system to develop the antibodies that will protect you from a harmful disease.**



It is much safer for your immune system to learn how to create antibodies through vaccination than from catching actual diseases that can lead to serious complications!



**Protect yourself and others by getting vaccinated!**



Scan the QR code to learn more at the **European Vaccination Information Portal**  
[vaccination-info.europa.eu/en](https://vaccination-info.europa.eu/en)

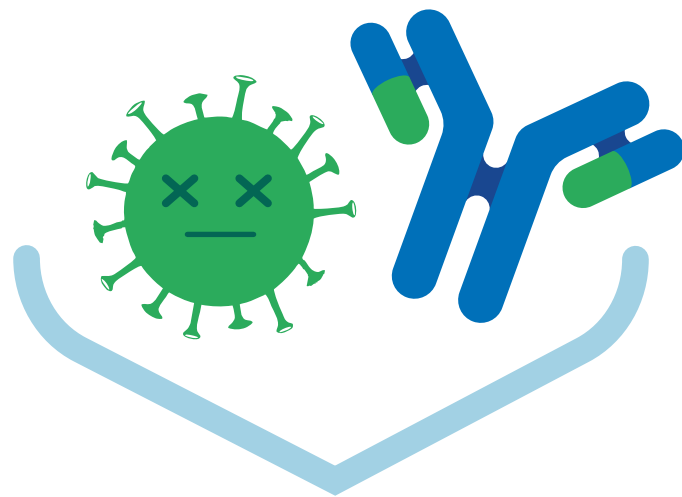
**Vaccines protect you.**



**But how do they work?**



**EUROPEAN VACCINATION  
INFORMATION PORTAL**  
An initiative of the European Union



## Antigens & antibodies

Most vaccines contain a weakened or inactivated form or component of a virus or bacterium. This is called an antigen.

When you get vaccinated, your immune system recognises the antigen as foreign and starts making cells and antibodies which fight the virus or bacterium.

**Your body creates a memory through vaccines to fight against the virus or bacterium.**

The next time you come into contact with that virus or bacterium, your immune system recognises it, and quickly produces the right antibodies to kill it – reducing your risk of getting seriously ill.



**How about people who don't get vaccinated?**

They have a greater risk of developing serious illness, and they are more likely to spread disease to others.

