

Vaccines protect you. But how do they work?



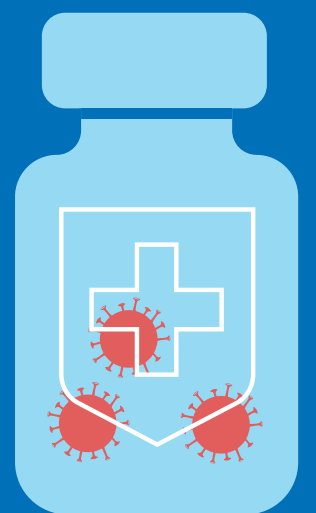
Vaccines teach your immune system to develop the antibodies that will protect you from a harmful disease.

Want to know more?
Here are some essential facts.



What are antigens and antibodies?

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



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



Good memories!

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.



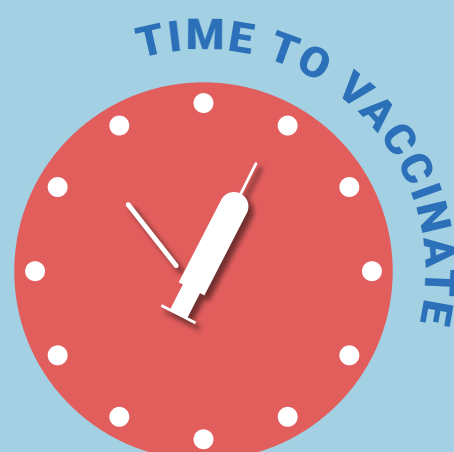
How about people who don't get vaccinated?

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



It is much safer to teach your immune system to make antibodies through vaccination than through catching actual diseases.

Contact your healthcare provider to book your vaccination



Scan the QR code to learn more at the European Vaccination Information Portal



vaccination-info.europa.eu/en



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