



VACCINE SAFETY

1 The U.S. has the safest vaccine supply in its history

By the time a vaccine makes it to your doctor's office, it's been studied for several years and gone through multiple clinical trials -- extensive tests to ensure its safety and effectiveness.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) examines these studies and decides whether a vaccine is safe, effective, and ready to be licensed. If the FDA has concerns about safety, they will require additional studies.

Why should I feel confident that vaccines are safe?



But what if a problem comes up once a vaccine's already in use?

2 After vaccines are licensed, they are continuously monitored for safety

Four systems in the U.S. help scientists monitor the safety of vaccines and watch for possible side effects. If safety monitoring reveals new risks, vaccine recommendations may change.



3 A scraped knee is probably a bigger challenge for a child's immune system than all childhood vaccines combined¹

Is my child's body strong enough? Won't vaccines overwhelm her immune system?



Vaccines use small amounts of antigens -- the parts of germs that cause the immune system to work. But vaccines contain only a tiny fraction of the antigens that children encounter each day in the food they eat, the water they drink, and the air they breathe. Vaccines help strengthen your child's immune system and keep them safe from vaccine-preventable disease.



But children get so many vaccines these days! When I was a kid, it wasn't this complicated.

4 Vaccines are simpler than they were a generation ago

In the early 1990s, children received vaccines that protected against eight diseases and contained more than 3000 bacterial and viral proteins. Today, children receive vaccines that protect against 14 diseases and contain only 305 proteins.³ That means our children are better protected from disease than ever before by purer, safer vaccines.

Additional Resources



Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)¹
<https://media.chop.edu/data/files/pdfs/vaccine-education-center-too-many-vaccines.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)^{2,3}
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/infographics/strengthen-baby-immune-system.html>

The Journey of Your Child's Vaccine
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/infographics/journey-of-child-vaccine-h.pdf>

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)
www.vaers.hhs.gov or call the toll-free information line at (800) 822-7967.

Shot of Prevention
<https://shotofprevention.com/2018/08/15/how-do-we-know-vaccines-are-safe/>

American Academy of Pediatrics
<https://www.healthychildren.org/english/safetyprevention/immunizations/Pages/default.aspx>

