

Vaccination: Facts & Resources

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As a parent, I've heard a lot of \$&%^#*% about vaccines and immunization. I wanted to do something more useful than getting into arguments or throwing my hands up in the air in frustration. In this document, I share the following information and links in the hopes of clearing up the confusion.

Try searching for the word "vaccines" on the Internet and you're likely to get a ton of conflicting opinions. The following links provide reliable information you can use. Of course, you should always consult with your doctor before making decisions.

In a hurry? This is a great rundown of myths and facts around vaccinations: <http://is.gd/vaccinereasons>

- How Vaccines Work*
<http://is.gd/CDChvw>
A brief introduction.
- Common Immunization Questions*
<http://is.gd/cdcfaq>
An FAQ from the CDC.
- Center for Disease Control: Summary of Notifiable Diseases*
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_nd/
Annual statistics tracking illnesses and deaths from reported illnesses.
- Questions and Answers*
<http://www.immunize.org/handouts/vaccine-questions.asp>
Individual fact sheets for each vaccine.
- Childhood Vaccines: Tough Questions, Straight Answers*
<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/vaccines/CC00014>
Do vaccines cause autism? Is it OK to skip certain vaccines? Get the facts on these and other common questions.
- National Network for Immunization Information*
<http://www.immunizationinfo.org>
The National Network for Immunization Information (NNii) is an affiliation of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the University of Texas Medical Branch, the Society for Adolescent medicine and the American Medical Association.
- Some Common Misconceptions*
<http://is.gd/misconceptions>
includes risk statistics for both vaccination reactions and illness complications.
- What Would Happen If We Stopped Vaccinations?*
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/whatifstop.htm>
It's not a pretty picture.
- The Problem of Waning Pertussis Immunity*
<http://is.gd/pertussis>
You've probably heard a rumor that many pertussis cases occurred among people who had previously received the vaccine. This article explains what's going on.
- Vaccines During Cancer Treatment*
<http://is.gd/vaccinesandcancer>
Discusses vaccination recommendations for people with compromised immune systems (this advice is specifically targeted at cancer patients — talking to a doctor about your specific situation is always a good idea.
- The Truth About Vaccination*
<http://is.gd/truthvaccines>
An excellent factual overview, interspersed with quotes from people who decided to vaccinate themselves and their families.
- An Example of How to Read A Vaccine Safety Study*
<http://is.gd/readingvaccinestudy/>
Walks through how to read a vaccine safety study in great detail.
- Setting the Record Straight: Debunking All the Flu Vaccine Myths*
<http://is.gd/flumyths>
Anything anybody ever worried about can be found here, along with just-the-facts responses.
- Vaccine Package Inserts: Debunking the Myths*
<http://is.gd/packageinserts>
Explains how to read the information that comes with a vaccine and what it all really means.
- Vaccines, Blood & Biologics*
<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/>
Standards, regulations, disclosures, ingredients and more.

Want more information?

Here's a customized search engine that searches reliable websites for medical information.
<http://www.skepticalraptor.com/vaccine.html>