



FAQs on Vaccine

This leaflet does not provide medical advice. It is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice. Never ignore professional medical advice in relation to the vaccine.

1. What is vaccination?

Vaccination is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them. It uses the body's natural defences to build resistance to specific infections and makes one's immune system stronger.

Vaccines train the immune system to create antibodies, just as it does when it is exposed to a disease. However, unlike the disease itself and because of the way they are manufactured, vaccines do not cause the disease or put the recipient at risk of its complications.

2. Why is it important?

Vaccination is a safe and effective way to prevent disease and save lives - now more than ever. Today there are vaccines available to protect against at least 20 diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza and measles. Together, these vaccines save the lives of up to 3 million people every year.

When we get vaccinated, we are not just protecting ourselves, but also those around us. Some people, like those who are seriously ill, are advised not to get certain vaccines - so they depend on the rest of us to get vaccinated and help reduce the spread of disease.

5. What is herd immunity?

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected — not just those who are immune.

When healthy individuals are vaccinated, they will be helping and protecting those others who, for medical reasons, cannot be vaccinated against the disease.

3. How does a vaccine work?

Vaccines reduce risks of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defences to build protection. When you get a vaccine, your immune system responds. It:

- Recognizes the invading germ, such as the virus or bacteria.
- Produces antibodies. Antibodies are proteins produced naturally by the immune system to fight disease.
- Remembers the disease and how to fight it. If you are then exposed to the germ in the future, your immune system can quickly destroy it before you become unwell.

The vaccine is therefore a safe and clever way to produce an immune response in the body, without causing illness.

Our immune systems are designed to remember. Once exposed to one or more doses of a vaccine, we typically remain protected against a disease for years, decades or even a lifetime. This is what makes vaccines so effective. Rather than treating a disease after it occurs, vaccines prevent us in the first instance from getting sick.

The information on this page has been adapted from the World Health Organisation and reviewed by a Medical Practitioner.



Aqleb il-paġna għal verżjoni bil-Malti.

4. How do vaccines protect?

Vaccines work by training and preparing the body's natural defences – the immune system – to recognize and fight off viruses and bacteria. If the body is exposed to those disease-causing pathogens later, it will be ready to destroy them quickly - which prevents illness.

When a person gets vaccinated against a disease, their risk of infection is also reduced – so they are also less likely to transmit the virus or bacteria to others. As more people in a community get vaccinated, fewer people remain vulnerable, and there is less possibility for an infected person to pass the pathogen on to another person. Lowering the possibility for a pathogen to circulate in the community protects those who cannot be vaccinated (due to health conditions, like allergies) from the disease targeted by the vaccine.

This information has been compiled by:



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FAQs dwar il-Vaccin

L-informazzjoni t'hawn taht mhix parir mediku. Hija mahsuba ghal skopijiet informativi biss. Mhix sostitut ghal parir mediku. Qatt tinjora parir mediku fir-rigward tal-vaccin.

1. X'inhu vaccin?

It-tilqim ta' vaccin huwa mod sempliċi, sigur u effettiv biex in-nies jiġu protetti minn mard sa minn qabel ma jiġu f'kontatt miegħu. Il-vaccin juża d-difiżi naturali tal-ġisem biex jibni rezistenza għal infezzjonijiet speċifiċi u jagħmel is-sistema immunitarja aktar b'saħħitha.

Il-vaccin iħarreg is-sistema immunitarja biex tohloq antikorpi, l-istess kif tagħmel meta tkun esposta għal marda. Madankollu, b'differenza mill-marda nnifisha u minhabba l-mod kif jiġi mmanifatturat, il-vaccin ma jikkawżax il-marda jew ipoġġi lil min jieħdu f'riskju tal-kumplikazzjonijiet tagħha.

2. Għaliex huwa importanti?

It-tilqim huwa mod sigur u effettiv biex tipprevjeni l-mard u ssalva l-ħajjiet - issa aktar minn qatt qabel. Illum hemm vaccini disponibbli biex jipproteġu kontra mill-inqas 20 marda, bħad-difterite, it-tetnu, il-pertussis, l-influwenza u l-ħosba. Flimkien, dawn il-vaccini jsalvaw il-ħajjiet ta' 3 miljun persuna kull sena.

Meta nitlaqqmu, aħna mhux biss nipproteġu lilna nfusna, imma wkoll lil dawk ta' madwarna. Xi nies, bħal dawk li huma morda serjament, huma avżati biex ma jehdux ċerti vaccini - allura jiddependu fuq il-kumplement biex jitlaqqmu u jgħinu biex inaqqsu t-tixrid tal-mard.

5. X'inhom immunità komunitarja?

Immunità komunitarja sseħħ meta porzjon kbir ta' komunità jsir immuni għal marda, u b'hekk it-tixrid tal-marda minn persuna għal oħra hija improbabbli. Bħala riżultat, il-komunità kollha ssir protetta - mhux biss dawk li huma immuni.

Meta individwi b'saħħithom jiġu mlaqqma, huma jkunu qed jgħinu u jipproteġu lil dawk l-oħrajn li, għal raġunijiet mediċi, ma jistgħux jiġu mlaqqma kontra l-marda.

3. Vaccin kif jaħdem?

Vaccin inaqqs ir-riskji li jkollok marda billi jaħdem id f'id mad-difiżi naturali ta' ġismek biex tinbena protezzjoni. Meta titlaqqam, is-sistema immunitarja tiegħek twieġeb. Hija:

- Tagħraf il-mikrobu invażiv, bħall-virus jew il-batterja.
- Tipproduċi antikorpi. L-antikorpi huma proteini prodotti b'mod naturali mis-sistema immunitarja biex tiġġieled il-mard.
- Tiftakar il-marda u kif tiġġidha. Jekk imbagħad, fil-futur, tkun esposta għall-mikrobu s-sistema immunitarja tista' teqirdu malajr qabel tibda tħossok ma tiflaħx.

Għalhekk, il-vaccin huwa mod sigur u għaqli biex tipproduċi reazzjoni immuni fil-ġisem, mingħajr ma tikkawża mard.

Is-sistemi immunitarji tagħna huma mfaġġa biex jiftakru. Tipikament, ladarba niġu esposti għal doża waħda jew aktar ta' vaccin, nibqgħu protetti kontra marda għal snin, għexieren ta' snin jew saħansitra għal ħajjietna kollha. Dan huwa dak li jagħmel vaccin daqshekk effettiv. Minflok ma tfejjaq marda wara li timrad, il-vaccin jipprevjeni milli timrad.

L-informazzjoni f'din il-paġna ġiet adattata mis-sit tal-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tas-Saħħa u riveduta minn tabib.



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4. Il-vaccin kif jipproteġi?

Vaccin jaħdem billi jħarreg u jhejji d-difiżi naturali tal-ġisem - is-sistema immunitarja - biex tagħraf u tiġġieled il-virus u l-batterji. Jekk aktar 'il quddiem, il-ġisem ikun espert għal dawn il-patoġeni li jikkawżaw il-mard, ikun lest li jeqridhom malajr - jipprevjeni l-mard.

Meta persuna titlaqqam kontra marda, ir-riskju tagħha li timrad jitnaqqas ukoll - allura huwa wkoll inqas probabbli li jittrażmettu l-virus jew il-batterja lil haddiehor. Hekk kif aktar nies f'komunità jitlaqqmu, inqas nies jibqgħu vulnerabbli, u hemm inqas possibbiltà għal persuna infettata li tgħaddi l-patoġenu lil persuna oħra. It-tnaqqis tal-possibbiltà li patoġenu jiċċirkola fil-komunità jipproteġi lil dawk li ma jistgħux jiġu mlaqqma (minhabba kundizzjonijiet tas-saħħa, bħal allergiji) kontra l-marda fil-mira tal-vaccin.

Din l-informazzjoni ġiet ikkumpilata minn:



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