

## **VACCINATIONS SAVE LIVES**



Vaccines have been a hot topic of debate and controversy for many years. The issue is important because vaccines protect individuals and communities from serious and sometimes deadly diseases.

Vaccination has been a significant public health achievement of the 20th century, contributing to the eradication of smallpox and the near elimination of other diseases such as polio and measles.

Vaccination is a crucial aspect of public health as it protects individuals, families, & communities from spreading infectious diseases.

Vaccines can prevent common diseases that used to seriously harm or even kill infants, children, and adults. Without vaccines, your child is at risk of becoming seriously ill or even dying from childhood diseases such as measles and whooping cough.

## It is always better to prevent a disease than to treat one after it occurs

- Vaccination is a safe, highly effective, and easy way to help keep your family healthy
- The recommended vaccination schedule balances when a child is likely to be exposed to a disease and when a vaccine will be most effective
- Vaccines are tested to ensure they can be given safely and effectively at the recommended ages

Outbreaks of diseases that could be prevented by vaccination occur when many parents decide not to vaccinate their children.

Vaccination is safe and it works! Scientists, doctors, and the U.S. government do long and careful reviews of each vaccine to be sure they are safe.

Despite the overwhelming scientific evidence supporting the safety and efficacy of vaccines, misinformation and misconceptions have led to decreased vaccination rates in some communities.

Trusted leaders in the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all strongly support protecting children with recommended vaccinations. And they get their own kids vaccinated!

