Immunization: Get the facts

**Immunization fact #1**

The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine does NOT cause autism

Evidence-based reviews performed by the US Immunization Facts for Health Care Providers and Vaccine Acceptance in Children. In addition to these reviews, research studies have also shown a causal association. For example, a Danish research team studied children born between 1991 and 1998 (187,231 children) and concluded that there is no difference in the risk of autism between vaccinated and unvaccinated children. Although the reason for the rise in autism is not yet conclusively known, one explanation may be the broader range of online resources at immunize.ca

**Immunization fact #2**

Multiple injections do NOT overwhelm the immune system

Every day our bodies come into contact with billions of germs, causing our immune system to work continuously to protect us. Therefore, exposure to antigens (parts of weak or dead viruses or bacteria) in vaccines is easily handled by our immune systems. In fact, our immune system needs to be challenged continually to stay vigorous. Multiple injections during infancy add up to the number of antigens in today’s vaccines. For example, in 1980 the diptheria, tetanus and halophile pertussis (DTP) vaccine had 537 antigens. At present, infants receiving recommended vaccines during two months of age come into contact with only 34 antigens — just 34 antigens among the millions handled every day by our immune systems

**Immunization fact #3**

Vaccines do NOT contain cells from aborted fetuses

Human cell lines were commonly used in the early stages of production of some vaccines to increase the rate of reducing reactions to unfamiliar foreign proteins to the immune system. However, modern biotechnology provides new approaches to cultivating viruses for vaccine production. For example, vaccine manufacturers now use chick embryos in the production of influenza vaccines, and are now looking towards mammalian cell lines that can be grown and reproduced in a marvelous system for vaccine production. All cell lines are removed during the purification stage of vaccine development

**Immunization fact #4**

Vaccines do NOT contain harmful traces of preservatives or residual products

Some vaccines contain... Preservatives which help keep vaccines from getting contaminated with germs

Thimerosal Thimerosal is an ethyl mercury derivative. It is a preservative used only in multi-dose vials of vaccines, and not in single-dose vials or syringes. Low doses of thimerosal have not been shown to produce any negative health effects. Moreover, no vaccine in Canada since March 2001 for routine use in children contains thimerosal, with the exception of the influenza vaccine. DTaP, polio and Hib vaccines have not contained thimerosal since 1997-98. The MMR vaccine used in Canada has never contained thimerosal

Residue of the vaccine production process which are required to make the vaccine but are removed from the final product

Formaldehyde Formaldehyde is sometimes used in the manufacturing process of vaccines to inactivate viruses and toxins. However, it’s mostly removed during the purification process. Formaldehyde occurs naturally in the human body and helps with the metabolism of proteins. It is mostly removed during the purification process. Formaldehyde is sometimes used in the manufacturing process of vaccines to inactivate viruses and toxins. However, it’s mostly removed during the purification process.

**Immunization fact #5**

Vaccines do NOT contain harmful traces of additives or adjuvants

Some vaccines contain... Adjuvants to help the body create a better immune response and improve their efficacy for certain age groups

Alumum salts Alumum salts are naturally present in our environment, including in soil, water and plants. There are many known adjuvants in widespread use, including aluminum salts and squalene. Without an adjuvant like alum, people would require more frequent doses of vaccines to be protected against viruses and bacteria

Squalene Squalene is a naturally occurring substance often found in plants, animals and humans, as well as foods and cosmetics. It is a compound produced by the liver and circulates freely throughout the bloodstream.

Squalene has been added as an adjuvant to some seasonal influenza vaccines in Canada to increase the immune response and improve their efficacy for certain age groups

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