

Vaccines

In 1796, the British doctor Edward Jenner was the first scientist to use a vaccine to prevent human illness – smallpox – despite the cause of that disease being unknown. His work ultimately led to the eradication of smallpox worldwide; it remains the only human disease to have been completely wiped out. However, it was Louis Pasteur, a French chemist, who paved the way for the modern knowledge of vaccines with his work on microbiology and immunology. Vaccines are considered one of mankind's greatest medical achievements and remain a powerful weapon to prevent dangerous infectious diseases.

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Vaccines reduce the risk of common diseases in young children; 95% of vaccinated children will build immunity to protect themselves from potentially deadly or disfiguring diseases, allowing them to grow and develop healthy and strong. Vaccines also reduce the risks of complications and secondary infections, and, for the community, vaccines reduce the incidence of diseases, protecting those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. If others are vaccinated against a disease, then there is nobody for an unvaccinated person to catch it from; this is called "herd immunity".

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Who was the first person to create a vaccine?

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What is the only human disease ever to have been wiped out?

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What is "herd immunity"?