

# Protected Together:

## LEARNING ABOUT VACCINES



### What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a type of medicine that **protects you** from getting sick with a disease.

### Are vaccines important?

**Yes** - while most medicines treat disease, **vaccines stop you from getting a disease!**

### How do vaccines work?

**Vaccines help your body learn to recognize and fight germs** so you don't get sick from a disease in the future. This is called immunity. Vaccines contain the same germs that cause a disease, but these germs have been killed or weakened so they don't make you sick!

### Are vaccines safe?

**Vaccines are tested to make sure they are safe for most people.** Like any medicine, in rare cases, some people may have allergic or other unexpected reactions to vaccines.

### Are vaccines common?

**Yes** - **vaccines are very common.** Most people get vaccines when they are children to prevent diseases like measles and polio. Many people also get a flu vaccine (flu shot) each year.

**When you get a vaccine, you help keep yourself and your community healthy.**

If you have questions about vaccines, ask your health care provider or a pharmacist. You can also visit [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org) to find a vaccine provider near you.