

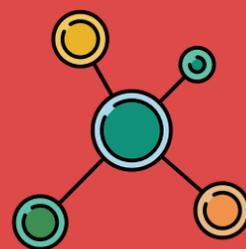
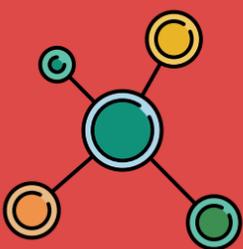
WHAT GOES INTO A VACCINE?



Today's vaccines use only the ingredients needed so that they work and are safe.

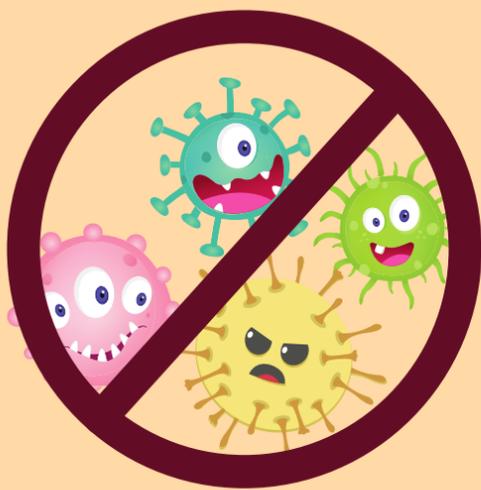
Spotlight on Thimerosal

(pronounced tie-mur-uh-sl)



WHAT IS THIMEROSAL?

Thimerosal is an ethylmercury-based preservative. Unlike methylmercury—the kind of mercury that's found in some fish—ethylmercury leaves our bodies quickly and easily.



WHY IS THIMEROSAL USED?

Thimerosal is used to stop germs from growing in the vaccine storage tube when a health care provider is drawing a dose from the tube.

SMALL AMOUNTS ARE USED

Thimerosal is used in small amounts. It is only added into the storage tubes that hold many doses of flu vaccine.



IS IT SAFE TO USE?

Thimerosal has been proven to be safe. People sometimes have minor side effects, like redness and swelling in their arms where the vaccine was given. Serious allergic reactions to thimerosal are rare.



SAFETY

Before they are approved for use in the United States, vaccines are tested to make sure they work and are safe. After approval, the CDC and the FDA keep tracking the vaccine's safety.



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LEARN MORE: WWW.CDC.GOV/VACCINES/VAC-GEN/ADDITIVES.HTM