

How we know there's no link between vaccines and autism

Years of research show **no connection** between any vaccine and autism, despite myths claiming otherwise. Here's what you need to know.



What is autism?



Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, is a developmental disorder that affects communication, behavior, and social interactions.

The exact cause of autism is unknown, but scientists believe there are several factors at play, including genes and some environmental exposures during pregnancy.

Years of scientific research have consistently found no link between vaccines and autism. Vaccines—and their ingredients—are very thoroughly tested and monitored to make sure they're safe for children and people of all ages.

How do we know vaccines are safe?

Vaccines go through rigorous testing **before** they're available to the public, including lab research and clinical trials, to figure out the correct dosage, any potential side effects, and how well a vaccine works.

After vaccines are approved by experts who have combed through the data, they continue to be monitored for any side effects.

Our vaccine safety monitoring systems are very good at identifying possible side effects and investigating whether they were caused by vaccines. **The most common vaccine side effects are minor and go away on their own, like a fever or pain where the shot was given.**



Many studies from a variety of researchers have all come to the same conclusion: Vaccines are **not associated** with autism in any way. Vaccines save lives, protecting kids from diseases like measles and polio, which can cause severe illness, disability, and even death.