



VACCINE FAQs —

Q: DO VACCINES WORK?

A: Yes! - In the United States we no longer see polio or smallpox. Since vaccinations started, serious infections and diseases have drastically declined in the U.S. However, because unvaccinated individuals may get the disease, we still see outbreaks.

- Babies that are too young to be vaccinated, people for whom vaccines are contraindicated, and immunocompromised individuals rely on all other vaccinated people around them.
- Vaccines help your body build immunity in a safe, controlled environment.

(<http://immunizeforgood.com/fact-or-fiction>)

Q: WILL VACCINES MAKE ME SICK?

A: No, some side effects may occur, but they are minimal compared to the disease which they prevent.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirms you CANNOT get the flu from the vaccination because the viruses in the vaccine have been inactivated.
- The most common problems are minor soreness or redness where the injection was given. A mild fever may occur, which is a result of the body responding to the vaccine and building immunity to the disease. (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/index.html>)

Q: ARE VACCINES SAFE?

A: Yes, vaccines are safe. This has been proven by an overwhelming number of studies performed by leading organizations and top scientists.

- Vaccines undergo rigorous safety testing prior to being approved by the FDA and are continually monitored for safety.
- The benefits of preventing disease with a vaccine far outweigh the risks.
- Vaccines literally save lives everyday.
- Vaccines have minimal additives to make them safer and more effective.

(<http://immunizeforgood.com/resource-center/side-effects-from-vaccines>)

Q: ARE VACCINES REALLY NECESSARY?

A: YES! Healthcare workers have a responsibility to protect their patients by ensuring they are immunized against vaccine preventable diseases. Measles and pertussis rates in Clark County are especially high this year. These diseases kill people.

- The recommended vaccination schedules from the CDC should be followed in most instances.
- During a recent measles outbreak in Clark County, over 60% of exposed healthcare workers had undocumented immunity, keeping them out of work, some for as long as 21 days.

(Information obtained from CCPH current 2010-2011 statistics).

Q: AREN'T VACCINES JUST MONEY MAKERS FOR DOCTORS?

A: No, your doctor does not make a profit from giving vaccines. The truth is, doctors can lose money on vaccines as the cost of giving vaccines often exceeds the amount that the insurers and health plans pay.

- Doctors understand the many proven life-saving benefits of vaccines and their only incentive is to keep you healthy and protected from infectious disease.

(<http://www.immunizeforgood.com/fact-or-fiction/vaccines-are-money-makers-for-docs>)

Q: IF I HAVE OTHER ALLERGIES WON'T I BE ALLERGIC TO VACCINES?

A: Not necessarily. Your healthcare provider administering your vaccines will ask specific allergy questions. If you have allergies that contraindicate receiving the vaccine, then you should confirm the vaccine allergy by getting allergy tests performed by an allergist. For example, if one is allergic to eggs, then one may be allergic to egg-based vaccines, such as MMR or influenza. However, not all people with egg allergies are allergic to vaccines.

- Vaccines are rarely known to cause allergic reactions. As with any medication, vaccines can have side effects such as fever, local redness or swelling. This is not an allergy.

(From <http://www.aaaai.org/allergist/allergies/Types/drug-allergy/Pages/flu-shots-egg-allergy.aspx> & <http://allergies.about.com/od/medicationallergies/a/vaccinesfoods.htm>)

It Starts with YOU!

**Protect yourself. Protect your patients.
Get all of your vaccinations!**

For more information contact :

Clark County Public Health
www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/healthworker/index.html
360.397.8403



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