

What is a Vaccine?

English version.

A vaccine is a substance that teaches your body to recognize and fight off things like viruses and bacteria.

Vaccines work by looking as much like the virus or bacteria as possible without causing the harmful effects of the disease.

Vaccines can be made from a weakened form of the virus itself; from unique pieces of the virus; from a chemical that the virus creates; or even from substances that scientists make that are similar to parts of the virus.

After you receive a vaccine, your immune system will recognize and attack the virus or bacteria if you are exposed to it later. This means that you will either not become ill at all, or you will have a milder response to the infection.

Vaccines use your own body to fight off infection. Vaccines are very effective — and they're the best protection against many serious diseases.

Most people who get vaccinated will be protected against the disease.