



## GET THE **FACTS**

# Vaccines Do **NOT** Cause Autism

Numerous studies, including a 2011 study by the Institute of Medicine and a 2013 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prove that immunizations and their ingredients do **NOT** cause Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In fact, Autism Speaks, the country's largest autism science and advocacy organization, released this statement in 2015:

*“Over the last two decades, extensive research has asked whether there is any link between childhood vaccinations and autism. The results of this research are clear: Vaccines do not cause autism.” - Autism Speaks*

The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and our members know some parents still have concerns. We encourage you to discuss these concerns with your physician and learn the facts about vaccine safety and effectiveness and ensure your child is fully protected.

### Fast VAX Facts App

- Trusted facts about immunization safety and effectiveness
- Videos from pediatricians
- Answers to frequently asked questions by pediatricians
- An interactive immunization schedule to track your child's immunizations
- Alerts on news that impact your child's health



**Download the Fast VAX Facts App in the App Store or on Google Play.**

## CONTINUE LEARNING

For more information about the benefits, safety and effectiveness of vaccines, visit:

**OhioAAP.org**  
**HealthyChildren.org**  
**cdc.gov/vaccines/acip**

### Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics **Mission Statement**

The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) promotes the health, safety and well-being of children and adolescents so they may reach their full potential. The Ohio AAP accomplishes this by addressing the needs of children, their families, and their communities, and by supporting Chapter members through advocacy, education, research, service, and improving the systems through which they deliver pediatric care.

American Academy of Pediatrics   
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# WHY Risk It?

Delaying the recommended immunizations for your child could expose them to potentially dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases.



## SPREAD THE WORD

“The impact of vaccination on the health of the world’s population cannot be overstressed. With the exception of water sanitation, no other modality—not even antibiotics—has had such a major effect on mortality reduction and population growth in children.”

Plotkin SL, Plotkin SA. A Short History of Vaccination. In *Vaccines 5th ed* (Eds, Plotkin SA, Orenstein WA, Offit PA) Saunders-Elsevier, Philadelphia, 2008, 1-16.

### Do what is **BEST** for your child!

The **safety** and **effectiveness of vaccines** are under constant study. Because vaccines are designed to be given routinely during well-child care visits, they must be extraordinarily safe. Safety testing begins as soon as a new vaccine is contemplated, continues until it is approved by the FDA, and is monitored indefinitely after licensure. The **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** works closely with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** to make recommendations for vaccine use.

### A **delayed or changed schedule could be dangerous.**

Alternative vaccine schedules are not a good idea. The current vaccination schedule is designed to protect infants against serious diseases as early as possible. Delaying or splitting up vaccinations leaves children, and the general public, unnecessarily vulnerable to serious diseases. (Source: TexasChildrens.org)

Studies show a delayed schedule increases the risk the child will never get fully vaccinated, and therefore will not be fully protected against potentially dangerous diseases.

## VACCINE MYTHS AND THE FACTS

### MYTH:

Too many vaccines can overwhelm the immune system.

### FACT:

When parents first read the child and adolescent vaccine schedule, it’s not unusual to be concerned about how many vaccines are given at one time. However, research shows it is safe for children to receive multiple vaccines at one time. There is NO research that shows a delayed schedule is safe. In addition, not protecting your child from vaccine-preventable diseases puts them at risk to contract these potentially dangerous illnesses.

### Immunizations do not expose your children to an overload of antigens

(substances that cause your immune system to produce antibodies against them). Children are exposed to more than 100 antigens per year from colds alone. The current vaccine schedule from birth to five years of age exposes children to about 130 antigens.

### MYTH:

Some of the illnesses that vaccines prevent are not a big deal.

### FACT:

**Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in Ohio prove these illnesses are still dangerous.** From 2014 – 2016, Ohio experienced outbreaks of measles and mumps. Some patients suffering from these illnesses experienced very serious complications including deafness and decreased fertility.

Chickenpox (varicella) can cause serious complications and for some children, especially those who are immune-compromised, it can be life threatening. Pregnant women who contract chickenpox may miscarry or the fetus may have abnormalities, such as skin scars or blindness.

Each year in the U.S., rotavirus (a virus that causes diarrhea) leads to more than 200,000 emergency room visits, 70,000 hospitalizations and 20-60 deaths. (Source: TexasChildrens.org)



## HOW IMPORTANT ARE VACCINES?

### We vaccinate to protect our future.

We don’t vaccinate just to protect our children. We also vaccinate to protect our grandchildren and their grandchildren. Take smallpox as an example, we “stopped the leak” in the boat by eradicating this disease. Our children don’t have to get smallpox shots any more because the disease no longer exists. If we keep vaccinating now, parents in the future may be able to trust that diseases like polio and meningitis won’t infect, cripple, or kill children. Vaccinations are one of the best ways to put an end to the serious effects of certain diseases. (Source: CDC.gov)

**Ohio has a new immunization mandate that takes effect in the 2016-2017 school year. Incoming 7th and 12th graders are required to be immunized against meningococcal disease. Check with your doctor if your son or daughter needs this important immunization!**

