

# Vaccinations

## What have they done for us?

### Introduction

**Vaccination is an efficient way of activating the immune system, so that it can protect a person against a range of serious diseases. The range of diseases that can be vaccinated against is continually growing and ranges from measles to tuberculosis to malaria - with many more also. Some of Britain's older population remember people who developed polio, who suffered badly with whooping cough or who developed tetanus from an accident in the garden.**

Many of these diseases are fatal or cause serious disabilities. Some Third World countries do not have the finances to fund these vaccinations or the education to make the population aware of the benefits of vaccination.

Many First World countries do have the finances and the education. However, they are now succumbing to scare stories published in the press and on social media, in relation to adverse side effects of the vaccinations themselves, with the result that take-up of vaccinations is falling.

Also, the effect of the global community means that there is much more communication between people from different parts of the world, which has an effect on the overall status of the whole population. For instance, in Britain in the 1980's, it was believed that TB had been eliminated from the population and the programme to vaccinate all teenagers was cut back for a while. Then the disease started to be seen again in at risk people, especially people on low income (which included students at university). It was believed that this was caused by mixing with unvaccinated carriers of the disease. The vaccination programme has now been fully reinstated.

### Project Outline

**Your task is to look at the benefits and the possible side effects of vaccination and to produce a reasoned information leaflet.**

**Either:**

**Directed towards people in the Third World who need more access to vaccination.**

**Or:**

**Directed towards people in the First World who are being affected by the scare stories.**

