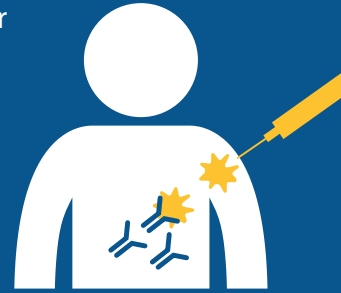


# HOW VACCINES WORK



Vaccines contain a modified form of virus or bacteria that doesn't cause disease, but does "teach" your immune system what to do if you are ever attacked by the real, potentially dangerous virus or bacteria.

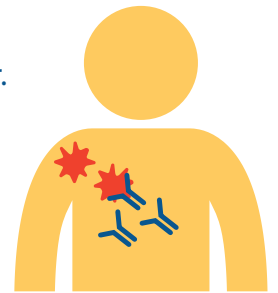
When you get vaccinated, your immune system responds just as it does to any other "intrusion", by creating antibodies to fight off the particular virus or bacteria.



For some diseases, more than one dose of the vaccine, or a booster dose later in life, may be needed to ensure full and lasting protection.



After vaccination your body remembers this specific intruder. If you ever come in contact with the real virus or bacteria, the right antibodies quickly destroy it – before it has the chance to make you sick.



## Herd immunity



When you and nearly everyone else in your community is immune to a contagious disease, it cannot spread easily. Together you prevent the virus or bacteria from reaching those who cannot be vaccinated against it, including babies too young for the vaccine and individuals with health conditions or who are undergoing treatments that weaken their immune systems.

Consult with your doctor and check your family's immunization records to make sure that you are all fully protected.

**Do your part to  
#immunizeEurope!**

#Vaccineswork to protect you and those around you  
[www.euro.who.int/vaccines](http://www.euro.who.int/vaccines)



European  
Immunization  
Week  
Prevent. Protect. Immunize



World Health  
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe