

ERADICATION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES THROUGH VACCINATION



Vaccination is one of the most successful public health interventions in modern human history.¹

The development of vaccines has changed the course of infectious diseases and prevents 2-3 million deaths each year globally – that's thousands of lives saved daily.²

Let's take a look at how vaccination has helped to reduce or, in some cases, eradicate the spread of infectious diseases.

1800

SMALLPOX

If smallpox had not been eradicated in 1980, it could still be causing **5 million deaths a year globally.**³

In the late 18th century, British surgeon and physician, Edward Jenner, hypothesised that inoculation with cowpox could protect against smallpox.⁴ Despite this, smallpox remained a deadly disease well into the 20th century, killing an estimated 300 million people,⁵ until 1959 when the World Health Organization launched their global vaccination programme.⁶ In 1980, smallpox was declared the first ever disease to be globally eradicated.⁴

1850

1900

POLIO

Poliomyelitis, commonly known as polio, is an infectious disease passed from person to person through contact with faeces, saliva or mucus.⁷ Before vaccination was introduced, epidemics would result in up to 750 deaths in the UK each year.⁷

The disease mainly affects children under five, and can lead to irreversible paralysis and death.⁸ A vaccine was developed in 1955 and deployed widely,⁸ sparing children from the life-limiting effects of polio or death.⁸

Globally, cases of polio have decreased by **over 99% since 1988.**⁸

1950

MEASLES

During 2000-2018, measles vaccination prevented an estimated **23.2 million deaths, globally.**⁹

Before the introduction of a measles vaccine in 1963, major epidemics occurred every 2-3 years and caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths globally each year.⁹

2000

TETANUS

Tetanus is an infectious disease caused by the toxin of a bacterium, and leads to painful muscle contractions.¹⁰ It caused 314,000 deaths globally in 1990.¹⁰ The widespread use of a vaccine meant that in 2017, there were just over 38,000 deaths.¹⁰

Vaccination resulted in an **88% reduction in deaths globally from 1990 to 2017.**¹⁰

2020

VACCINES AND COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines have been developed using this same science that has been around for decades.¹¹ While there is still a lot to learn about COVID-19, we do know that getting vaccinated against the disease can protect the people around you.¹¹

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VACCINATION, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR DOCTOR.

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