

WHAT GOES INTO A VACCINE?



Today's vaccines use only the ingredients needed so that they work and are safe.

Each ingredient used to make a vaccine has a specific purpose. Vaccines have ingredients that provide protection—or immunity—against the actual disease. Vaccines also have ingredients that prevent contamination and keep vaccines safe and long-lasting. Some important ingredients used to make vaccines may stay in the vaccine in small and safe amounts.

ADJUVANTS

(pronounced a-juh-vnts)

Adjuvants boost the body's response to the vaccine, which makes the vaccine work better.

Aluminum salt is a common adjuvant and can also be found in deodorant or antacids (like Tums®).



STABILIZERS

Stabilizers help keep the vaccine effective after it's made. Gelatin is an example of a stabilizer. It's in our bodies and can be found in foods like JELL-O®.



PRESERVATIVES

Preservatives are used in small amounts to stop bacteria or fungi from contaminating the vaccine after it's made. They are also used in products like hand soap.



RESIDUALS

Residuals are small leftovers of ingredients that helped make the vaccine.



Getting the flu vaccine protects you and others around you from getting sick with the flu.



Before they are approved for use in the United States, vaccines are tested to make sure they work and are safe. After approval, the CDC and the FDA will keep tracking the vaccine's safety.

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