

Vaccination nation

Vaccines are your immune system's memory to protect you from disease. Your immune system keeps you alive in a constant battle against germs. Your **immune system** is made up of loads of cells like little soldiers battling to keep germs away!

When you were a baby you were vaccinated, which means you were given an injection with a very small **weakened** bit of the infection. This **vaccination** doesn't cause the disease, but it gently wakes up your body's immune system (the little soldier cells called leucocytes). These cells are trained to recognise the enemy like they were in bootcamp! If the enemy **invaded** again these cells are ready to do battle!

Herd immunity means that the more people in a population who are vaccinated the better because the germs have nowhere to hide. This protects people who can't get vaccinated because they are too sick or too weak.

Vaccines are very powerful and have saved millions of lives. Polio, a disease caused by a virus has been **eliminated** and an even worse disease called smallpox was wiped out in 1980.

There is a race on now to find and test a vaccine for Covid-19. Scientists and **immunologists** are working incredibly hard to test vaccines on humans to protect us against this disease.

Activity-Fill in the Blanks

vaccination	population	eliminated
protect	immunologists	cells

1. Your body's immune system helps to _____ us against infection.
2. Your immune system is made of lots of _____ that act like soldiers in battle.
3. When the doctor gives us an injection with a weakened bit of the disease, this is called _____.
4. Herd immunity means the more people in a _____ that are vaccinated against a disease the better it is for everyone.
5. When a disease is wiped out because of vaccination, it is said to be _____.
6. _____ are special doctors that study the immune system and find vaccines.

This is a very helpful and fun clip on youtube for more information on the immune system: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24lYt5Z3eC4>