

Acronyms and Terms

Active Immunity: The production of antibodies against a specific disease by the immune system. Active immunity can be acquired in two ways, either by contracting the disease or through vaccination

Adverse Events: An “adverse event” is any health problem that happens after a shot or other vaccine

Antibody: A protein found in the blood that is produced in response to foreign substances (e.g. bacteria or viruses) invading the body. Antibodies protect the body from disease by binding to these organisms and destroying them

Antigen: Foreign substances (e.g. bacteria or viruses) in the body that can cause disease. The presence of antigens in the body triggers an immune response, usually the production of antibodies

B-Lymphocytes: Defensive white blood cells. They produce antibodies that attack the pieces of the virus left behind by the macrophages

Efficacy Rate: A measure used to describe how good a vaccine is at preventing disease

Equity: The fair distribution of benefits and burdens

Herd Immunity: Also known as community immunity, herd immunity occurs when a percentage of the community is immune to a disease either through vaccination and/or prior illness

Immunity: Protection against a disease. There are two types of immunity, passive and active. Immunity is indicated by the presence of antibodies in the blood and can usually be determined with a laboratory test

Immunization: The process of being made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. It implies that you have had an immune response

Macrophages: White blood cells that swallow up and digest germs and dead or dying cells. Macrophages leave behind parts of the invading germs called antigens. The body identifies antigens as dangerous and stimulates antibodies to attack them

Moral Claims: The perceived rights or expectations of a stakeholder based on moral norms

Morality: Refers to moral norms about right and wrong that are stable and widely shared in society

Moral Norms: Guides for our behavior; not absolute (universal and particular norms)

mRNA Vaccines: Contain material from the virus that gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus. After our cells make copies of the protein, they destroy the genetic material from the vaccine. Our bodies recognize that the protein shouldn't be there and build T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight the virus if we are infected in the future.

Particular Norms: Moral norms that apply only to certain communities, professions

Protein Subunit Vaccines: Contain harmless pieces (proteins) of the virus instead of the entire germ. Once vaccinated our immune system recognizes that the proteins don't belong in the body and begins making T-lymphocytes and antibodies. If we are ever infected in the future, memory cells will recognize and fight the virus

Respect for Persons: Refers to treating individuals in ways that are fitting to and informed by a recognition of our common humanity, dignity, and inherent rights

Strain: A specific version of an organism. Many diseases, including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, have multiple strains

T-Lymphocytes: Another type of defensive white blood cell. They attack cells in the body that have already been infected

Universal Norms: Widely accepted norms

Utility: The principle of utility states that actions are right insofar as they promote the well-being of individuals or communities

Vaccination: The physical act of administering any vaccine or toxoid

Vaccine: A suspension of live (usually attenuated) or inactivated microorganisms (e.g. bacteria or viruses) or fractions thereof administered to induce immunity and prevent infectious diseases and their sequelae

Vector Vaccines: Contain a weakened version of a live virus—usually a different virus than what the vaccine is targeting—that has genetic material from the targeted virus inserted in it. Once the viral vector is inside our cells, the genetic material gives cells instructions to make a protein that is unique to the targeted virus. Using these instructions, our cells make copies of the protein. This prompts our bodies to build T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus if we are infected in the future

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