

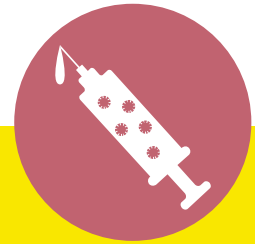
# How Vaccines Work



Source: World Health Organisation (WHO), 2018

1

Most 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.



2

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.



3

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



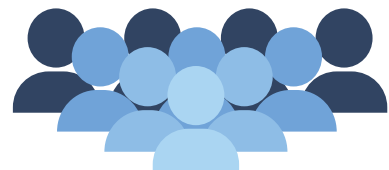
4

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.



## 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.



**Remember: Vaccines work to protect you and those around you**

Note: UNHCR Malta is not the official source of this information. UNHCR Malta has translated this information, to make it available to you in a language you understand, and to share it among refugees and asylum-seekers in Malta. This information was adapted from a poster by World Health Organisation (WHO).