

Immunizations: The basics – Q&A

- **Q: What should I do if someone has a reaction to a vaccine?**
- A: First, call a doctor. If the reaction is severe, take the person to a doctor immediately. Tell your doctor what happened, when it happened, and when the vaccination was given. Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to file a VAERS form...VAERS stands for Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. It is a national vaccine safety surveillance program run by the CDC and FDA.

- **Q: Claims in the news have made some parents concerned about a link between autism and the shot for measles, mumps, and rubella. Is there any truth to this?**
- A: Studies have found no link between vaccines and autism. Some parents question whether a certain preservative in vaccines might cause autism, but studies have not found a link. Two major government agencies, along with vaccine makers and other groups, watch for, study, and keep track of adverse events that occur after vaccines are given.

- **Q: Where can I go to learn even more about vaccines?**
- A: The website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cdc.gov, is a trusted source of information that you may want to visit.