

HCA recognizes National Immunization Awareness Month

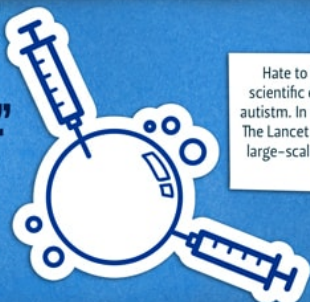
child vaccination

FACT VS FICTION

In 2013, HCA was responsible for more than 900,000 pediatric encounters with patients aged zero to five. And while our 165 hospitals treat children and adults alike, we also have more than one dozen dedicated pediatric hospitals specifically tailored for kids. August is National Immunization Awareness month and since everyone needs to know the importance of immunizations, we've organized data from the CDC and World Health Organization below to help separate the facts from fiction.

Fiction:

"Vaccination causes autism."



Fact:

Hate to burst your bubble, but there is NO scientific evidence linking vaccinations with autism. In fact, the initial report published in The Lancet describing the link was refuted by large-scale studies and eventually retracted by the journal.

Fact:

Almost all routine childhood vaccinations are now mercury-(thimerosal) free, in response to a U.S. Public Health Service and American Academy of Pediatrics request to manufacturers in 1999.



Fiction:

"Vaccinations contain high levels of mercury (thimerosal)."

Fiction:

"Partial immunizations will protect my child from disease."



Fact:

Partial immunizations leave your child, and others around him, at risk. Full immunity is not achieved unless your child is vaccinated according to schedule. It's never too late to get vaccinated—catch-up immunization schedules are available for those who have missed or skipped doses.

Fact:

Because their immune systems have not fully developed, children under five are especially susceptible to diseases. By vaccinating early and on schedule, you can protect your child and other children from disease.



Fiction:

"I should wait to vaccinate my child until s/he is older."

Fiction:

"There are very few deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases."



Fact:

Globally, 1.5 million unvaccinated children under five years of age die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases¹.

Fact:

Most insurance providers pay for the majority of childhood vaccinations. Some children are even eligible for free vaccinations.



Fiction:

"Vaccinations are costly."

¹Source: WHO http://www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/diseases/en/

More information on the importance of childhood vaccinations may be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines