

Vaccines are lifesaving. For decades, vaccines have protected people against severe illness, life-long disabilities, and premature death. They’ve also helped to greatly reduce and stop the spread of disease in the U.S. and around the world. Vaccines have saved **millions of lives**.^{1,2}

Pre-1900s	<div><div>1796</div><div>Edward Jenner develops a vaccine for smallpox—the world’s first vaccine.</div></div> <div><div>1885</div><div>Louis Pasteur develops the first rabies vaccine.</div></div>
1900–1949	<div><div>1914</div><div>The first pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine is approved.</div></div> <div><div>1923</div><div>The first diphtheria vaccine is licensed, reducing rates of childhood death across the U.S.</div></div> <div><div>1938</div><div>The first tetanus vaccine is approved.</div></div> <div><div>1945</div><div>The first influenza vaccine is approved for military use; civilian approval follows in 1946.</div></div> <div><div>1948</div><div><div>The pertussis, diphtheria, and tetanus vaccines are combined into a single DTP shot.</div><div>▸ Combination vaccines help improve vaccination rates by simplifying the process.</div></div></div>
1950–1999	<div><div>1955</div><div>Jonas Salk develops the first effective polio vaccine.</div></div> <div><div>1963</div><div>The first measles vaccine is introduced.</div></div> <div><div>1964</div><div><div>The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is established at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist in preventing and controlling communicable diseases.</div><div>▸ ACIP continues to provide evidence-based recommendations that shape the U.S. immunization schedule.</div></div><div><div>1967</div><div>The first mumps vaccine is approved.</div></div><div><div>1969</div><div>The first rubella vaccine is approved.</div></div><div><div>1971</div><div>The measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines are combined into a single MMR shot.</div></div><div><div>1974</div><div><div>The World Health Organization (WHO) launches the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) to ensure universal access to vaccines.</div><div>▸ EPI marked the beginning of systematic universal mass campaigns (UMC) for routine childhood immunization.</div></div><div><div>1979</div><div><div>The U.S. achieves elimination of all polio cases.</div><div>▸ No cases of polio have originated in the U.S. since, showcasing long-term vaccine success.</div></div><div><div>1980</div><div><div>WHO declares the world free from smallpox.</div><div>▸ Smallpox is the only human disease ever eradicated—a historic win for global vaccination efforts.</div></div><div><div>1986</div><div>The Vaccine Adverse Event Report System (VAERS) is established to monitor vaccine safety and encourage transparency.</div></div><div><div>1987</div><div>The first haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine is approved.</div></div><div><div>1994</div><div>The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is created, offering free vaccines to eligible children and boosting immunization rates.</div></div><div><div>1995</div><div><div>The first varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is approved.</div><div>▸ Chickenpox once caused over 4 million cases and 10,000 hospitalizations annually. The vaccine turned a common illness into a rare one.</div></div><div><div>1997</div><div>ACIP publishes its first standardized childhood immunization schedule.</div></div></div></div></div></div></div>
2000–Present	<div><div>2000</div><div><div>Measles is declared eliminated in the U.S.; The first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) is approved to prevent invasive diseases like meningitis.</div><div>▸ Within a few years, PCV nearly eliminated the deadliest forms of childhood bacterial meningitis.</div></div></div> <div><div>2001</div><div>The first Hepatitis A/B vaccine is approved.</div></div> <div><div>2006</div><div><div>The first human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine is approved.</div><div>▸ The HPV vaccine marks a major step in cancer prevention, protecting against multiple cancers linked to the virus.</div></div></div>
	<div><div>2011</div><div>The tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine is recommended for all pregnant individuals during each pregnancy to protect newborns from whooping cough.</div></div> <div><div>2015</div><div>New vaccines for meningococcal disease (including meningitis) are approved, expanding protection for teens and young adults.</div></div> <div><div>2017</div><div>The first shingles vaccine is approved.</div></div> <div><div>2020</div><div><div>The first COVID-19 vaccines are approved under emergency use authorization during the pandemic.</div><div>▸ Clinical trials and real-world data show COVID-19 vaccines dramatically reduce severe illness, hospitalization, and death.</div></div></div>
	<div><div>2023</div><div>The first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine is approved and recommended for use during pregnancy to protect newborns from RSV.</div></div>

To help stay protected against infectious respiratory disease and ensure you’re up to date on the latest vaccine recommendations, visit cveep.org.