

A Collective Statement on Confidence in Childhood Vaccination

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Childhood vaccination is one of humanity's greatest public health achievements. Across generations, vaccines have saved millions of lives, prevented lifelong disability, and helped communities around the world thrive.¹

The combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is among the best-studied vaccines in modern medicine. Decades of research involving millions of children across many countries have consistently shown that it is safe, effective, and provides strong protection against three serious infectious diseases.^{2–4}

Independent scientific reviews, including comprehensive evaluations of more than 23 million children, have found no credible evidence that the MMR vaccine – neither the individual components nor the combined product – cause autism. This conclusion has remained consistent across multiple high-quality studies conducted over many years and is supported by leading scientific and medical institutions worldwide.^{2,3,5,6}

Using a single vaccine to protect against three infections also offers practical benefits. It reduces the number of injections and clinic visits, makes it easier for families to keep up with recommended vaccinations, and ensures children are protected during the years when they are most at risk.^{7–9}

Vaccination schedules are not fixed indefinitely. They are developed from decades of research and are regularly reviewed as new evidence emerges, and national budgets allow. Some countries, for instance, only provide MR (measles, rubella) vaccine.^{10–14} Their purpose is simple: to provide children with protection at the right time, before they are exposed to infections that can lead to severe illness, disability, or death.^{15,16}

Measles, mumps, and rubella remain preventable diseases, but they have not disappeared. Recent outbreaks in several countries are a reminder that these diseases return when vaccination coverage falls.^{17–19}

Maintaining high vaccination uptake protects not only individual children, but also infants, people with weakened immune systems, and others who cannot be fully protected through vaccination themselves.²⁰

Public trust grows when health decisions are guided by transparent, rigorous, and independent scientific evidence.

We reaffirm our shared commitment to ensuring that every child has access to safe, effective vaccines, and to supporting parents and caregivers with clear, evidence-based information that helps them make informed decisions for their families.

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