



D-BUG FUN FACTS!

VACCINES & ANTIVIRALS

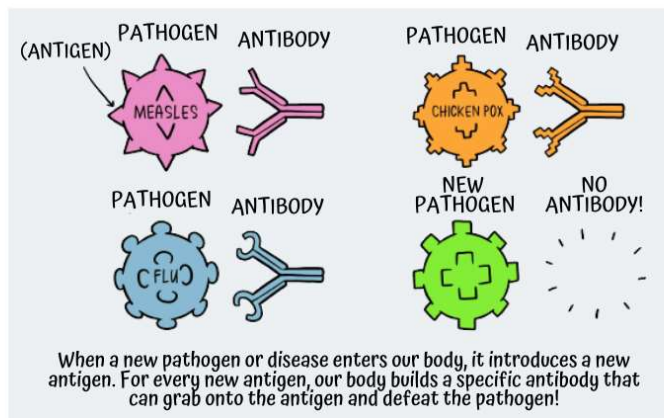
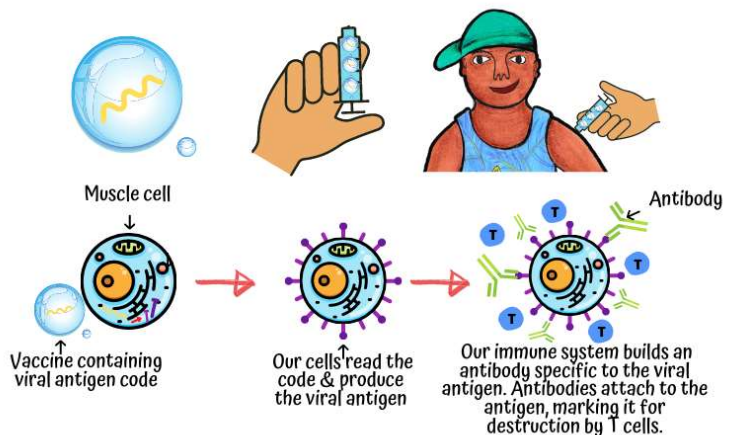
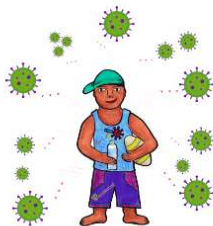
VACCINES are medicines that can **PREVENT** infection from viruses or bacteria.

A vaccine will train our immune system to recognise a virus as soon as it enters our body - before it can cause infection and disease.

Vaccines contain weak or inactive virus parts (**antigens**). Some vaccines simply contain the code, or instructions, for making the antigen.

The **vaccine WON'T cause disease, but WILL trigger our immune system into action and teach it to build a specific antibody** that can attach to the antigen and mark it for destruction.

Immune system memory cells remember this defence strategy. If we're exposed to the virus in future, our immune system is pumped & primed to rapidly respond!



Source: WHO, www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/how-do-vaccines-work

ANTIVIRALS are medicines that can **PREVENT** and **TREAT** infection from viruses.

They do this by stopping the virus making copies of itself, **acting as DECOYS and sabotaging the virus** life-cycle.

Antivirals don't directly attack viruses, that's the job of our immune system. But they can help stop viruses from spreading, ease our symptoms, & shorten the time we're sick.