

vaccines

A new era of preventative medicine and wellness


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Without question, global concern surrounding the H1N1 flu has once again brought attention to both the health risks posed by viruses and the importance of vaccines that protect us from them.

In fact, along with improvements in sanitation over the past several decades, vaccines are credited with increasing life expectancy in developed nations from just 40 years to almost 80 years (81 years in Canada).

Death rates for the 13 childhood diseases now preventable by vaccine are at all time lows. Death rates for smallpox, diphtheria and polio have declined by 100 per cent.

Health experts agree that vaccines are among the greatest health advances of all time, and are credited with saving more lives in the last century than all other medical technologies combined.

This special report – published in partnership with leading health organizations and Canada's research-based pharmaceutical companies –

will explore the latest advances in vaccine technologies, including:

- **Flu fighters:** New discoveries are redefining the fight against influenza, including H1N1, the 1918 Spanish flu and the H5N1 bird flu.

- **Cancer-prevention vaccines:** Since the 2008-2009 school year, HPV vaccine has been provided free to girls in many jurisdictions. What other developments are on the horizon?

- **Childhood vaccinations:** Focusing on young adults, programs such as the Ontario Mumps Catch-Up Vaccination Program highlight the dangers of missing vaccinations. Why are childhood vaccinations as important as ever?

- **Vaccines in development:** Ongoing health research is leading to new vaccines to prevent a variety of major illnesses, including Chlamydia, a disease that affects 90 million people worldwide.

- **Travel safe:** Vaccinations are up to 99% effective in preventing a variety of diseases. What vaccinations should you schedule before your next trip?

All this and more in this special Globe and Mail report.

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Contact your Globe and Mail Account Manager, or Project Manager Richard Deacon at 604.631.6636, or via e-mail at rdeacon@globeandmail.com