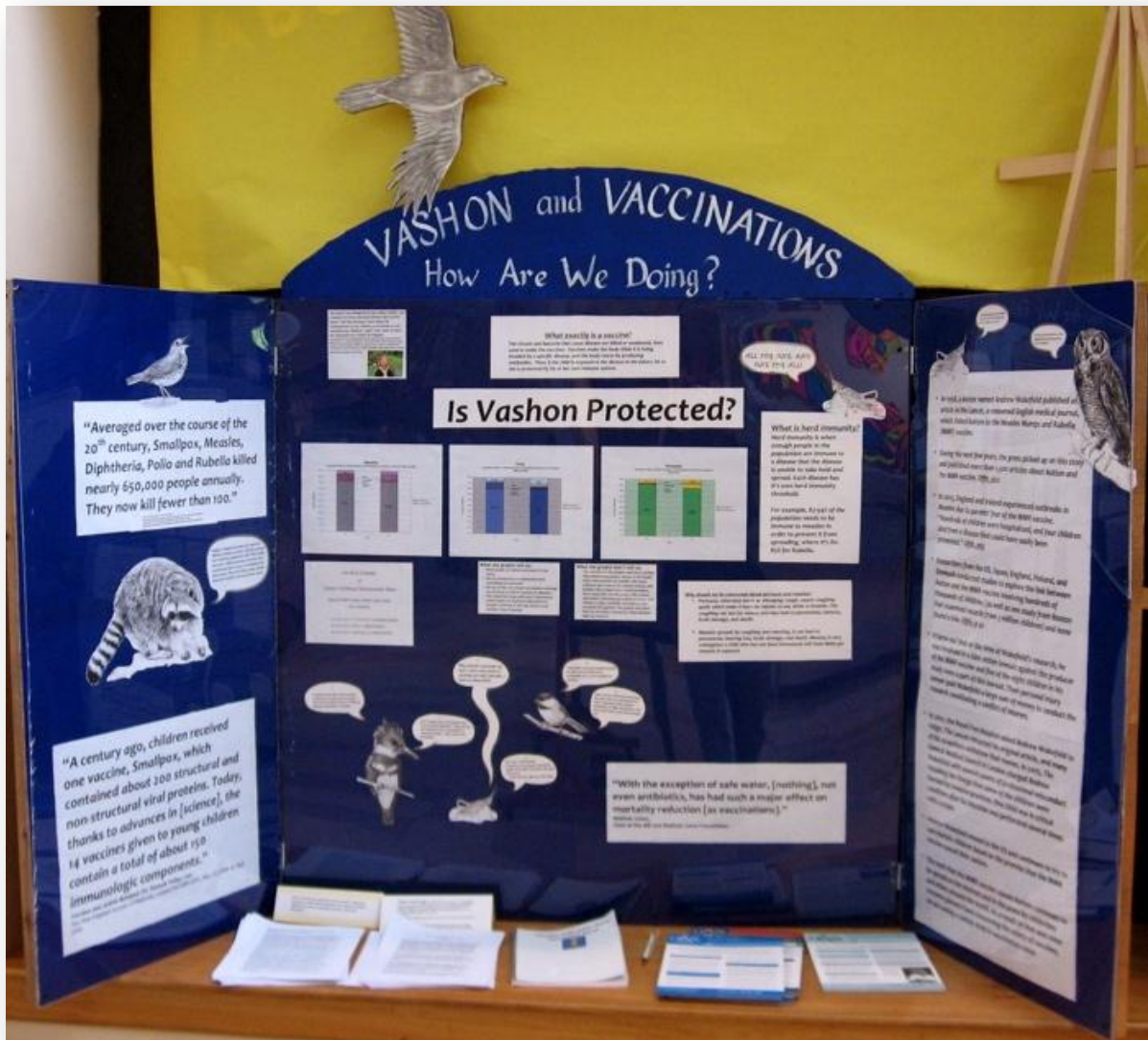


## How To: Do a Bulletin Board Display

Making a display board for a school or child care lobby is an interactive and creative way to get the conversation about vaccines humming. Working with the Immunity Community Team, you can get specific vaccine rates for your school to put on the display board. We can also get you handouts and takeaway information about vaccines. Let your creativity run wild. One of our volunteers created this board with her school's vaccine rates and important information about immunizations. We hope it inspires you as much as it did us.



# IMMUNITY COMMUNITY

- In 1998, a doctor named Andrew Wakefield published an article in the *Lancet*, a renowned English medical journal, which linked Autism to the Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- During the next few years, the press picked up on this story and published more than 1,500 articles about Autism and the MMR vaccine. *Offit*, p22
- In 2003, England and Ireland experienced outbreaks in Measles due to parents' fear of the MMR vaccine. "Hundreds of children were hospitalized, and four children died from a disease that could have easily been prevented." *Offit*, p55
- Researchers from the US, Japan, England, Finland, and Denmark conducted studies to explore the link between Autism and the MMR vaccine involving hundreds of thousands of children, (as well as one study from Boston that examined records from 3 million children) and none found a link. *Offit*, p 42
- It turns out that at the time of Wakefield's research, he was involved in a class action lawsuit against the producer of the MMR vaccine and five of the eight children in his study were a part of this lawsuit. Their personal injury lawyer paid Wakefield a large sum of money to conduct the research constituting a conflict of interest.
- In 2001, the Royal Free Hospital asked Andrew Wakefield to resign. The *Lancet* retracted his original article, and many of his co-authors withdrew their names. In 2015, The General Medical Council in London charged Andrew Wakefield with several counts of professional misconduct including the charge that some of the children were harmed by invasive practices. One child was in critical condition after his intestine was perforated several times with a scope.
- Andrew Wakefield moved to the US and continues to try to cure Autistic children based on the premise that the MMR vaccine caused their autism.
- The myth that the MMR vaccine causes Autism continues to be spread on the Internet and in the press by celebrities and others around the world. As a result of that and other concerns parents have concerning the safety of vaccines, we are seeing a steady drop in vaccination rates.

"Averaged over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Smallpox, Measles, Diphtheria, Polio and Rubella killed nearly 650,000 people annually. They now kill fewer than 100."

"A century ago, children received one vaccine, Smallpox, which contained about 200 structural and non-structural viral proteins. Today, thanks to advances in [science], the 14 vaccines given to young children contain a total of about 150 immunologic components."

Vaccines and Autism Revisited: The Hanesuk Poling Case  
The New England Journal of Medicine, volume 348:2007, May 15, 2008 by Paul Offit

1. Why should I vaccinate my kids? I don't even know if vaccines are safer! (Besides, I have so many kids!)
2. I vaccinate my little ones because vaccines are a safe way to protect them from being harmed or killed by diseases like polio or measles.
3. I vaccinate to protect people around me who are too old to be vaccinated yet, or are unable to vaccinate.
4. Don't forget about the people who have immune disorders. They can't be vaccinated and are vulnerable to catching disease. They need to be protected.
5. Oh, now I understand. Everyone who can get vaccinated needs to in order to protect the ones who can't. ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE!
6. Well, and we also have to protect the ones who are vaccinated but didn't develop all the needed antibodies to fight the disease. We don't even know who these people are!

"With 1 even a mortal"  
Melinda Gal  
Chair of the

[www.vaxnorthwest.org](http://www.vaxnorthwest.org)