**We Need a Reminder of What the Pre-Vaccine Era Was Like**

**The worst manifestations of preventable diseases have faded from public memory.**

[*https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/03/14/opinion/pre-vaccine-america.html*](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/03/14/opinion/pre-vaccine-america.html)

[“Medicine and Health”, “Vaccination and Immunization”, “Disease Rates”, “Smallpox”, “Measles”, “Mumps”, “Whooping Cough”, “Poliomyelitis”, “Diphtheria”, “German Measles (Rubella)”, “United States”]

*Comment 0:*

Is there a voodoo doctor in the house? Unfortunately, yes. Let's hope there's still enough remaining legitimate personnel and structures around him to contain him and his worms.

*Comment 1:*

I am constantly amazed how otherwise intelligent people (some with a nursing or medical background) choose to believe and peddle hearsay about 'the cousin of a friend who is a consultant virologist who wouldn't allow his children to get the ..... Vaccine' rather than the advice and informed opinion regulatory agencies of the USA, EU, Japan, UK, Australia and other first world cohntries

*Comment 2:*

If you want to see the “results” of childhood vaccines, go to an older cemetery. Look at the headstones of babies and young children who died in the years before the mid-1950s and early 1960s. After that hardly any at all. That’s when parents began eagerly vaccinating their children. If you’re in doubt, the “results” are there - written in stone.

*Comment 3:*

That could be me in the polio picture. 1948 (pre-vaccine), 2 years old, hospital for a year, braces for years, multiple surgeries, lifetime on crutches. Did get the vaccine in the '50s, and no, I didn't become autistic. Not only has Trump put the health of Americans at risk, but also the vulnerable worldwide. He's a criminal.

*Comment 4:*

It seems that with the ignorant people in change of our health and medical agencies we will very soon see a lot of “reminders” of the value of vaccines.  Of course, those same people should be held accountable for every person that gets sick or dies due to the ignorance of these  “leaders.”  I suggest life in prison for crimes against humanity.

*Comment 5:*

It is astounding that this column even needs to be written in the 21st century.

I suppose we'll have to remind everyone that the earth is flat, too.

*Comment 6:*

Do they still read the Velveteen Rabbit?  Burning your favorite toy was a horror that stuck with me a child. Shots, please.

*Comment 7:*

it's so inconceivable that in such progressive country people still believe in this absolute nonsense, get vaccinated ASAP so you won't endanger your fellow citizens!

*Comment 8:*

Thoughtful, informative article.

But, MAGA voters/vaccine deniers (strong correlation) don't read the NYT and even if they did, they wouldn't believe this article.

Kennedy's arrogance and attitude is a drug for MAGA voters.

*Comment 9:*

Measles has spread from Texas to New Mexico and lately to NY and NJ.

I believe all of those who contracted measles were unvaccinated.

There's a polio outbreak in Kansas.

Ebola has reappeared.

MAGA - if after all this, you still don't believe in science, in vaccines - then live with the consequences.

You reap what you sow.

Stop watching Fox and stop listening to dodgy, dishonest, unreliable podcasts. Don't get your news from TikTok, X, FB or other (anti) social media platforms. They are infected with lies and disinformation.