

# Tips for Evaluating Immunization Information on the Internet



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Are you confused by the amount of information on immunizations on the internet? Here are some tips to help you.**



## Websites:

(Amended from <http://archive.hhs.gov/nvpo/tips.htm>. National Vaccine Program Office, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

- The information provided should be based on sound scientific study and endorsed by groups or institutions dedicated to science, such as professional associations or universities.
- Remember that medical information changes rapidly so it is a good idea to check several sources.
- A good health website should show who is responsible for the site and a way to contact the webmaster.
- Beware of suggestions of "conspiracies."
- Media attention does not necessarily mean a claim is true.
- Discuss the information with your health care provider. Website information should add to rather than replace the information or advice given by your health professional.

## Blogs:

(From Marcia Ann Tate - [www.mtateresearch.com](http://www.mtateresearch.com), and Joyce Valenza - 21st Century Fluency):

- Who is hosting or sponsoring the blog?
- Does the author of the post provide links to sources of factual information? If so, attempt to go back to the original source.
- Does the author provide a profile or other information that can help determine her/his qualifications for writing on the subject?
- Is the blog featured or mentioned on other websites? If so, which ones?
- Does the author maintain other blogs, web pages, or sites?
- Does this blogger have influence? Is the blog well-established? Who and how many people link to the blog? Who is commenting? Does the blog appear to be part of a community?
- Is this blog alive? Is there a substantial archive? How current are the posts?
- At what point in a story's lifetime did a post appear? Examining a story's date may offer clues as to the reliability of a blog entry.
- Is the site up front about its bias? Does it recognize/discuss other points of view?
- If the blogger is not a traditional "expert," is this a first-hand view that would also be valuable for research? Is it a unique perspective?

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## Immunization Websites for Teens:

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- [www.vaccines.gov/more\\_info/features/teensfeature.html](http://www.vaccines.gov/more_info/features/teensfeature.html)
- [http://kidshealth.org/teen/school\\_jobs/college/immunizations.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/school_jobs/college/immunizations.html)
- [www.mchealth.org/health/school-based-health-centers](http://www.mchealth.org/health/school-based-health-centers)  
School-based clinics are located at designated elementary, middle and high schools in Multnomah County. We facilitate access to comprehensive preventive, primary and mental healthcare for Multnomah County school-aged youth, to keep them healthy, in school and ready to learn.