

THE USUAL SUSPECTS

Several highly infectious diseases have been brought under control by routine childhood vaccination, although complacency can lead to resurgence in disease.



Diphtheria
This bacterial infection can damage heart muscle and the nervous system, leading to paralysis and respiratory failure.



Polio
Crippling viral infection all but eliminated world but for a few countries (see page S14).



Mumps
Highly infectious virus causing glands to swell, giving a chipmunk-like appearance. Complications can lead to deafness or aseptic meningitis.



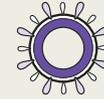
Rubella
If a pregnant women catches the usually mild infection, unborn child has a two in three chance of developing syndrome, including deafness and mental disability.



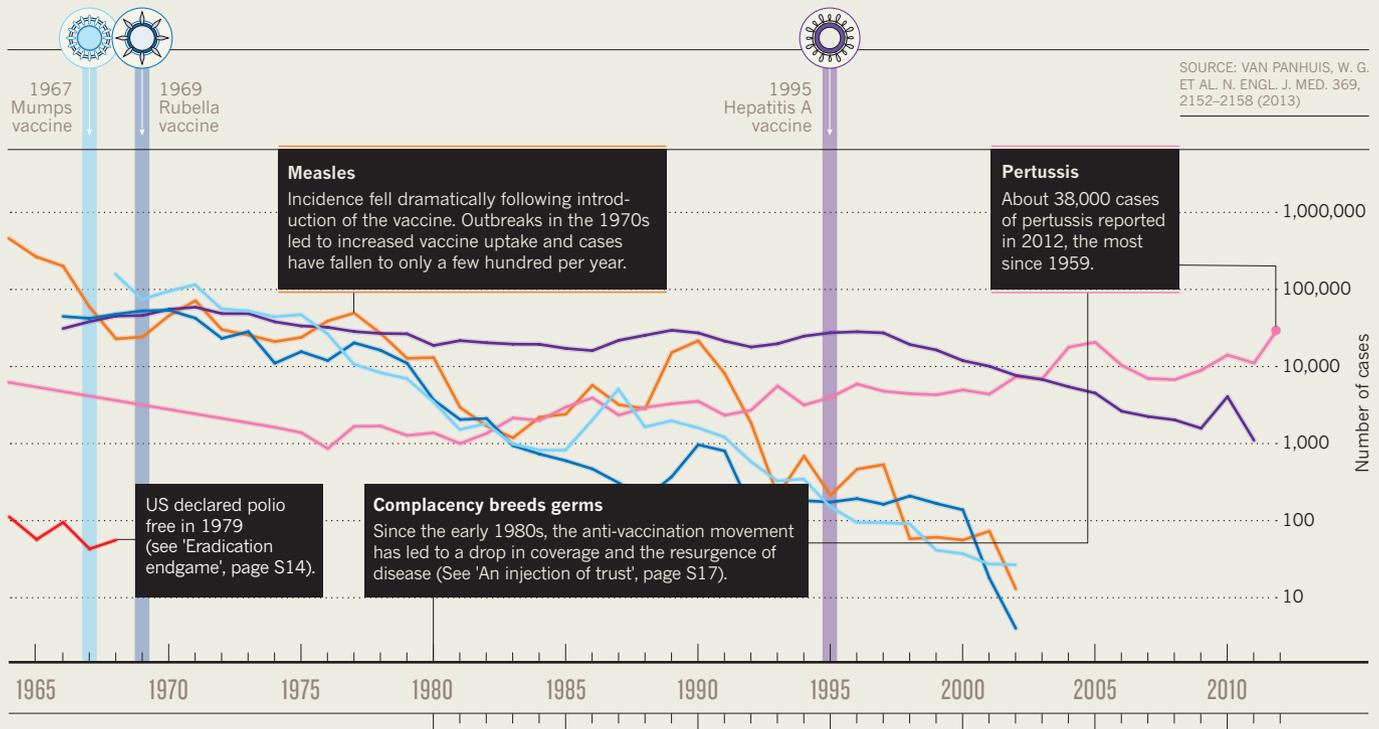
Pertussis
Better known as whooping cough, infection can last up to 6 weeks. Each year, 50 million cases worldwide and 300,000 deaths.



Measles
Respiratory infection that can cause body rash. Estimated 1 in every 5,000 people with measles will die from complications.



Hepatitis A
Flu-like viral infection usually contracted by consuming tainted food or water. Illness more severe if liver becomes infected.



THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Since the early 1980s, vaccine coverage has risen rapidly. During 2012, 131 countries achieved ≥90% national DTP3 coverage, and 30% achieved ≥80% DTP3 coverage in every district. Developing programmes to suit each country will help ensure that enough children are being protected against vaccine-preventable diseases (see 'Keeping cool', page S8).

