

Vaccines with Professor Jonathan Van-Tam #2 - video transcript

[Text: Vaccines with Professor Jonathan Van-Tam #2]

[Text: What's in a vaccine?]

Infectious diseases can be caused by a whole variety of organisms including bacteria and viruses and in a vaccine, you either have to have a piece of the bacteria against the disease you're trying to prevent or a piece of the virus, or sometimes the whole bacterium or the whole virus.

And what's really important is that if it's just a piece of the bacteria or a piece of the virus it can't give you the infection, it's dead.

If it's a whole bacterium or a whole virus what has been done is to make that bacteria or that virus so weak that it doesn't actually make you ill at all.

What it does is still stimulate your immune system so that you get the antibodies, but you don't actually get the disease.

[Logo: Department of Health & Social Care]