

## **Is there Thimerosal or Mercury in vaccines? Why?**

Routine childhood immunizations (in Canada) do not contain thimerosal, with the exception of certain influenza vaccines.

Thimerosal is a preservative. Preservatives play an important role in enhancing vaccine safety, as preservatives prevent the growth of germs, bacteria and fungi that can contaminate vaccine.

Mercury is not added to vaccines. Thimerosal – the preservative that is present only in some influenza vaccines – contains a minute amount of one form of mercury; however, that type of mercury does not build up in a person's body, and is safe.