

# How vaccination began

## Jenner's Story

Smallpox was one of the most feared diseases in 18th century Europe. If the disease did not kill you it would leave your body covered in scars. However, believe it or not, there was actually some good to come out of the smallpox epidemic!

### The big experiment

Folklore had it that people who caught a mild infection known as cowpox were protected from getting smallpox. In 1796, Doctor Edward Jenner decided to test this theory himself.

Jenner took pus from the hand of a milkmaid who had caught cowpox from her cow. He rubbed the pus into scratches on the arm of the son of his gardener. The boy soon recovered from the mild infection. Six weeks later Jenner infected the boy with the smallpox virus.

Just as Jenner expected and no doubt much to the relief of the boy's family, he did not become ill with smallpox. Jenner's experiment had worked; he had protected the boy from the virus.



### Did you know?

To date, smallpox remains the only human infection ever to have been eradicated



People became fearful of the possible consequences of Jenner's technique.

### The practice of vaccination had begun!

Today vaccination is used throughout the world to safeguard humans and animals from disease.

At Moredun, our scientists are involved in developing new and improved vaccines to help protect animals from numerous infectious diseases.

### Did you know?

Vaccination gets its name from the Latin word for cow, *vacca*, which is the origin of the material Jenner used to protect people against smallpox