



# The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy

By Seth Mnookin

Download now

Read Online 

## The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy

By Seth Mnookin

### WHO DECIDES WHICH FACTS ARE TRUE?

In 1998 Andrew Wakefield, a British gastroenterologist with a history of self-promotion, published a paper with a shocking allegation: the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine might cause autism. The media seized hold of the story and, in the process, helped to launch one of the most devastating health scares ever. In the years to come Wakefield would be revealed as a profiteer in league with class-action lawyers, and he would eventually lose his medical license. Meanwhile one study after another failed to find any link between childhood vaccines and autism.

Yet the myth that vaccines somehow cause developmental disorders lives on. Despite the lack of corroborating evidence, it has been popularized by media personalities such as Oprah Winfrey and Jenny McCarthy and legitimized by journalists who claim that they are just being fair to “both sides” of an issue about which there is little debate. Meanwhile millions of dollars have been diverted from potential breakthroughs in autism research, families have spent their savings on ineffective “miracle cures,” and declining vaccination rates have led to outbreaks of deadly illnesses like Hib, measles, and whooping cough. Most tragic of all is the increasing number of children dying from vaccine-preventable diseases.

In *The Panic Virus* Seth Mnookin draws on interviews with parents, public-health advocates, scientists, and anti-vaccine activists to tackle a fundamental question: How do we decide what the truth is? The fascinating answer helps explain everything from the persistence of conspiracy theories about 9/11 to the appeal of talk-show hosts who demand that President Obama “prove” he was born in America.

*The Panic Virus* is a riveting and sometimes heart-breaking medical detective story that explores the limits of rational thought. It is the ultimate cautionary tale for our time.

 [\*\*Download\*\* The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine ...pdf](#)

 [\*\*Read Online\*\* The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vacci ...pdf](#)

# The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy

By Seth Mnookin

**The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy** By Seth Mnookin

WHO DECIDES WHICH FACTS ARE TRUE?

In 1998 Andrew Wakefield, a British gastroenterologist with a history of self-promotion, published a paper with a shocking allegation: the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine might cause autism. The media seized hold of the story and, in the process, helped to launch one of the most devastating health scares ever. In the years to come Wakefield would be revealed as a profiteer in league with class-action lawyers, and he would eventually lose his medical license. Meanwhile one study after another failed to find any link between childhood vaccines and autism.

Yet the myth that vaccines somehow cause developmental disorders lives on. Despite the lack of corroborating evidence, it has been popularized by media personalities such as Oprah Winfrey and Jenny McCarthy and legitimized by journalists who claim that they are just being fair to “both sides” of an issue about which there is little debate. Meanwhile millions of dollars have been diverted from potential breakthroughs in autism research, families have spent their savings on ineffective “miracle cures,” and declining vaccination rates have led to outbreaks of deadly illnesses like Hib, measles, and whooping cough. Most tragic of all is the increasing number of children dying from vaccine-preventable diseases.

In *The Panic Virus* Seth Mnookin draws on interviews with parents, public-health advocates, scientists, and anti-vaccine activists to tackle a fundamental question: How do we decide what the truth is? The fascinating answer helps explain everything from the persistence of conspiracy theories about 9/11 to the appeal of talk-show hosts who demand that President Obama “prove” he was born in America.

*The Panic Virus* is a riveting and sometimes heart-breaking medical detective story that explores the limits of rational thought. It is the ultimate cautionary tale for our time.

**The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy** By Seth Mnookin

## Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #145685 in Books
- Brand: Simon Schuster
- Published on: 2012-01-03
- Released on: 2012-01-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.44" h x 1.20" w x 5.50" l, .87 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 464 pages

 [Download The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vacci ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online **The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy** By Seth Mnookin

---

### Editorial Review

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

It might be possible to view Mnookin's book as the final nail in the coffin for the contemporary antivaccine movement, given its recent scientific and legal setbacks. But Mnookin's own conclusions would likely deny this; as several reviewers approvingly observed, *The Panic Virus* is just as much about how today's society deals with information overload as it is about how it confronts disease. Many reviews echoed Mnookin's condemnation of the American media for allowing false antivaccine findings to flower. Yet they also praised him for avoiding heavy-handedness and unnecessary jargon, even if the book breaks little new ground in the vaccine debate. Critics strongly recommended the book to anyone interested in medicine and public health, as well as to parents who may fear that booster shot.

From [Booklist](#)

Over the last three decades, the incidence of autism spectrum disorder, better known simply as autism, has risen dramatically in the U.S., from approximately 1 in 1,000 children to 1 in 110, arousing widespread concern among parents and psychiatrists alike. A few of the many potential possible culprits scientists have targeted are faulty genes and thimerosal, a mercury-laced preservative in vaccines. Former Newsweek senior journalist Mnookin focuses his masterful investigative skills primarily on the latter, highly controversial possibility, illustrating how the current, misguided anti-vaccine movement can be blamed almost equally on panic-driven parents, sensation-hungry media, and PR-challenged health authorities. In making his case, Mnookin covers a wide swathe of medical history, from polio outbreaks to the scare tactics of fringe British researcher Andrew Wakefield, who first forged the dubious vaccine-autism link. While Mnookin dismantles this link convincingly, his argument that multivaccine cocktails have been proven safe is ultimately less persuasive. Still, he's an able, engaging wordsmith, and this cautionary tale about misinformed medical alarmism is thoroughly compelling. --Carl Hays

Review

"Seth Mnookin's *The Panic Virus* is a lesson how fear hijacks reason and emotion trumps logic. . . . A brilliant piece of reportage and science writing." (Michael Shermer *The Wall Street Journal*)

"Mnookin deftly describes how the Internet has fostered new communities of people fiercely gathered around their own versions of truth. . . . Loaded with interesting anecdotes and historical tidbits, *The Panic Virus* is a fascinating read. The scope of the book is often impressive." (Susannah Nesmith *The Miami Herald*)

"*The Panic Virus* is sure to attract attention. . . . Mnookin's book is an unsparing brief against the vaccine skeptics. But in a larger sense, this volume is less about the insurrection against inoculations than it is about the democratization of information. . . . Less about the contagion of ideas than about the contagion of misinformation and mistrust that metastasizes in the new technology." (David M. Shribman *The Boston Globe*)

"A must-read for parents and parents-to-be." (Trine Tsouderos *Chicago Tribune*)

"The definitive, infuriating history of the myth that vaccines cause autism." (Bill Wasik *The New York Observer*)

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Orlando Hernandez:**

Throughout other case, little men and women like to read book The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy. You can choose the best book if you want reading a book. As long as we know about how is important a book The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy. You can add information and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, because from book you can learn everything! From your country till foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple factor until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we can easily open a book as well as searching by internet device. It is called e-book. You need to use it when you feel fed up to go to the library. Let's study.

#### **Michael Marchant:**

This The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you have by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. That The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy without we realize teach the one who reading it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't be worry The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy having fine arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

#### **Bessie Scudder:**

The book The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy will bring you to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very appropriate to you. The book The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

#### **Tammy Schuler:**

Many people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt this when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the particular book The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy to make your own reading is interesting. Your own personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to see it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to start a book and examine it. Beside that the guide The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy can to be your brand-new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse in what must you're doing of the time.

**Download and Read Online The Panic Virus: The True Story  
Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin  
#WAE CIN1HR2M**

## **Read The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin for online ebook**

The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin books to read online.

### **Online The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin ebook PDF download**

**The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin Doc**

**The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin Mobipocket**

**The Panic Virus: The True Story Behind the Vaccine-Autism Controversy By Seth Mnookin EPub**