

Risk of Disease

Concern: These diseases are basically gone from the United States, so I do not need to vaccinate my child.

General Responses:

- It is true that through vaccination some diseases are no longer common and have been reduced to very low levels in the United States.
 - However, some vaccine-preventable diseases remain common in the United States, like pertussis (whooping cough) and chickenpox.
- If we stop vaccinating, even the few cases we have in the United States could very quickly become tens or hundreds of thousands of cases.
 - We have seen how quickly an outbreak can grow through pertussis.
 - In 2012, we had over 48,000 cases of pertussis reported in the United States.
- Serious vaccine-preventable diseases are still common all over the world and you do not have to be an international traveler to be exposed to the disease.
 - Coming in contact with a person who recently traveled is all that needs to happen. (think about the recent measles outbreaks)
- If the disease comes into the community and your child is not fully vaccinated, he (or she) can become seriously sick.
 - They could also spread it to others who are not vaccinated.
- Even though the risk of disease may be low, you should still be vaccinated for two reasons:
 - The first is to protect you.
 - The second is to protect those around you.

Risk of Disease:

- Vaccine-preventable diseases can be serious, or even deadly.
- Although many of these diseases are rare in this county, they remain a concern in other parts of the world (for example, polio or diphtheria) and these diseases can be brought into the U.S., putting your unvaccinated child at risk.
- Even with advances in health care, the diseases that vaccines prevent can still be very serious – and vaccination is the best way to prevent them.
- Each year we hear about disease outbreaks in undervaccinated communities across the United States.
 - We have seen an increase in pertussis cases in Michigan for several years. Michigan has experienced infant deaths, including a 3 month old little girl in 2012.
 - There were 1,301 cases of pertussis disease reported in Michigan in 2014.
 - We have also seen an increase in measles cases in 2014, with over 600 cases reported in the United States during 2014.
 - This is more cases than in any year since 1996; only 37 cases in 2004.

Risk of Disease

- Without vaccines, your child is at risk for getting seriously ill and suffering pain, disability, and even death from diseases like measles and whooping cough.

Benefit of Vaccination:

- Vaccines do work!
- Vaccines reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to help it safely develop immunity to disease.
- We do see low risk of disease but this is because we are vaccinating against vaccine preventable diseases.
 - Prior to the vaccine, serious HIB disease killed about 1,000 children in the U.S. each year.
 - Before the MMR Vaccine, Mumps made approximately 200,000 people sick each year in the U.S.
 - Before the Varicella Vaccine, the U.S. reported:
 - An estimated 4 million cases of chickenpox a year
 - Leading to approximately 11, 000 hospitalizations and 100 deaths
- Even with the low risk of disease, each and every vaccine will save lives and/or reduce the number of disabilities in children in the United States.
- Remember – If we stopped vaccinating, even the few cases of disease we have in the United States could quickly become thousands of cases. Because of advances in medical science, your child can be protected against more diseases than ever before.
- Some diseases that are prevented by vaccines, like pertussis and chickenpox, remain in the United States but other diseases are no longer common in this country primarily due to safe and effective vaccines.
- Everything, including diseases, is just a plane trip away.
 - There has been significant increases in measles cases world-wide with over 50,000 cases reported in the Philippines in 2014.
- Vaccines not only protect your family, but also help prevent the spread of these diseases to your friends and loved ones.

Resources (*Available in Spanish)

Every Child by Two

Booklet (easy to print): Protect Your Child-Immunize on Time, Every Time

<http://www.ecbt.org/images/articles/eBookOfDiseases.pdf>

Immunization Action Coalition

Vaccines work! CDC statistics demonstrate dramatic declines in vaccine-preventable diseases when compared with the pre-vaccine era

<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4037.pdf>

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MDCH

Vaccine Preventable Diseases in Michigan—Annual Summaries (provides rate of disease in MI)
http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,4612,7-132-2942_4911_4914_6385-47024--,00.html

The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

*The Facts about Childhood Vaccines

<http://vec.chop.edu/export/download/pdfs/articles/vaccine-education-center/vaccines-fact.pdf>

DVD: Vaccines and Your Baby and Vaccines: Separating Fact from Fear

<http://vec.chop.edu/video/vaccines-and-your-baby/home.html>

<http://vec.chop.edu/video/vaccine-separating-fact-from-fear/home.html>

Booklets: *Vaccines and Your Baby and *Vaccine Safety and Your Child

<http://vec.chop.edu/service/vaccine-education-center/order-educational-materials/order-educational-materials.html#booklets>

California Immunization Coalition

Booklet: Vaccine Safety: Responding to Parents’ Top 10 Concerns

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/IMM-917.pdf>

CDC

*Infant Immunizations FAQs

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niw/ed-resources/downloads/f_provider-qa-bw.pdf

American Academy of Pediatrics

*Facts for Parents about Vaccine Safety

<http://www2.aap.org/immunization/families/VaccineSafety1pagerEnglish.pdf>