GET THE FACTS

Vaccines Do NOT Cause Autism

Numerous studies, including a 2011 study by the Institute of Medicine and a 2013 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prove that immunizations and their ingredients do NOT cause Autism Spectrum Disorder.

In fact, Autism Speaks, the country’s largest autism science and advocacy organization, released this statement in 2015:

“Over the last two decades, extensive research has asked whether there is any link between childhood vaccinations and autism. The results of this research are clear: Vaccines do not cause autism.” - Autism Speaks

The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and our members know some parents still have concerns. We encourage you to discuss these concerns with your physician and learn the facts about vaccine safety and effectiveness and ensure your child is fully protected.

Fast VAX Facts App

- Trusted facts about immunization safety and effectiveness
- Videos from pediatricians
- Answers to frequently asked questions by pediatricians
- An interactive immunization schedule to track your child’s immunizations
- Alerts on news that impact your child’s health

Download the Fast VAX Facts App in the App Store or on Google Play.

CONTINUE LEARNING

For more information about the benefits, safety and effectiveness of vaccines, visit:

OhioAAP.org
HealthyChildren.org
cdc.gov/vaccines/acip

Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Mission Statement

The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Ohio AAP) promotes the health, safety and well-being of children and adolescents so they may reach their full potential. The Ohio AAP accomplishes this by addressing the needs of children, their families, and their communities, and by supporting Chapter members through advocacy, education, research, service, and improving the systems through which they deliver pediatric care.

WHAT IS YOUR Reason?

Your choice TODAY will affect your child’s health TOMORROW.

American Academy of Pediatrics
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SPREAD THE WORD

Do what is BEST for your child!

Immunization against infectious diseases remains one of the most successful health interventions in the past 100 years. Countless lives have been saved as a result of vaccines.

More than three million people still die around the world from vaccine-preventable diseases each year. Approximately 1.5 million of these deaths are in children less than five years old.

The Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and our member physicians understand that parents may have concerns about immunizing their children. We support ongoing research and increased funding in that area. We hope you discuss all questions and concerns about vaccines with your child’s physician.

Dangerous Diseases

Rodney Throgmorton thought he just picked up a cold, but it soon became apparent he had spread pertussis (whooping cough) to his four-week-old daughter. Two weeks later, Haleigh died in an intensive care unit.

“Haleigh was too young to receive the vaccine. It would have saved her life,” said Rodney.

The CDC recommends children receive the vaccine for pertussis, which is combined with vaccines against diphtheria and tetanus (Tdap), at 6 weeks or older.

VACCINE MYTHS AND THE FACTS

MYTH:
Too many vaccines can overwhelm the immune system.

FACT:
When parents first read the child and adolescent vaccine schedule, it’s not unusual to be concerned about how many vaccines are given at one time. However, research shows it is safe for children to receive multiple vaccines at one time. There is NO research that shows a delayed schedule is safe. In addition, not protecting your child from vaccine-preventable diseases puts them at risk to contract these potentially dangerous illnesses.

Immunizations do not expose your children to an overload of antigens (substances that cause your immune system to produce antibodies against them). Children are exposed to more than 100 antigens per year from colds alone. The current vaccine schedule from birth to five years of age exposes children to about 130 antigens.

MYTH:
Some of the illnesses that vaccines prevent are not a big deal.

FACT:
Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in Ohio prove these illnesses are still dangerous. From 2014 – 2016, Ohio experienced outbreaks of measles and mumps. Some patients suffering from these illnesses experienced very serious complications including deafness and decreased fertility.

Chickenpox (varicella) can cause serious complications and for some children, especially those who are immune-compromised, it can be life threatening. Pregnant women who contract chickenpox may miscarry or the fetus may have abnormalities, such as skin scars or blindness.

Each year in the U.S., rotavirus (a virus that causes diarrhea) leads to more than 200,000 emergency room visits, 70,000 hospitalizations and 20-60 deaths. (Source: TexasChildrens.org)

VACCINES SAVE LIVES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report in 2014 that showed vaccines given to infants and young children over the past two decades will prevent 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations and 732,000 deaths over the course of their lifetimes.

The report also showed vaccines have saved $295 billion in direct costs, such as medical expenses, and a total of more than $1.3 trillion in societal costs over that time, because children who were spared from sometimes-devastating illnesses will be able to contribute to society.

Ohio has a new immunization mandate that takes effect in the 2016-2017 school year. Incoming 7th and 12th graders are required to be immunized against meningococcal disease. Check with your doctor if your son or daughter needs this important immunization!