Vaccination is common sense that saves lives

When discussing diseases that have no cure, the measles virus doesn’t really make the list. However it is just that. Since the recent outbreak at Disneyland, the question of vaccination has been gaining traction and, while parents who choose to not vaccinate their children are certainly entitled to do so, it’s not in the best interest of the public that they continue this practice.

Vaccination is a part of our society; it’s the part that protects young children and the elderly from contracting deadly and disease near extinction. By not choosing to vaccinate a child, you are choosing to put another human being at risk. So the real question posed by not vaccinating a child isn’t if someone has the right to make a decision about his or her own child but if the decision to not vaccinate their own child should have the ability to cause someone else to become ill or die.

The main reasons that someone wouldn’t want to vaccinate a child lie in the ingredients that are found in some vaccinations. These ingredients can have less than pleasant side effects and can result in serious illness in younger children. At one point there was thought to be a link between vaccination and autism. But in fact, the Autism Science Foundation, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization all have published articles demolishing the claim that there’s a link between autism and vaccinations. Another frequent reason that some parents don’t vaccinate their child is religion. The Amish, the Church of Illumination and the Universal Family Church all believe in either no vaccination or that the decision is the parents’ alone (they also don’t believe in educating children past the 8th grade and cell phones). It’s true; there are a couple reasons to wait to vaccinate or to choose to let your child fight the disease naturally; however neither is an excuse that would be worth the death of another human being.

Vaccinations protect our society as a whole. While some vaccines have nearly eradicated disease, they haven’t completely eradicated the traces of illness in our society. The reason that we still vaccinate for measles is that in some part of the world, the disease still exists. To simply stop vaccinations because you want to minimize the change that your child may develop autism is just plain ridiculous considering the research. Vaccines save lives and are safe. In one normal day, a child will come into contact with more bacteria their body must fight off than anything else that might be found in the vaccine.

I think that children should be vaccinated for sure. The families that don’t are the reason measles are spreading these days.

Shannon Goodman - certified medical assistant

The WHO is ramping up efforts to stop these outbreaks and the disease in general. They have posted ambitious goals, including vaccinating 95% of global measles deaths by 95 percent by the end of 2015, and to have the complete elimination of the disease in five regions by 2020. Steps they are taking to achieve this include educating communities about the disease and finding ways to make the vaccine more accessible. “I have faith that the WHO will be able to achieve these goals,” senior Zach Dahir said. "Looking at what they have accomplished since 2000 is a good sign and shows they know what they are doing.”

Nebraska is leading the pack in relation to these world goals with legislation that will require students to be immunized against the measles, mumps, rubella, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus prior to enrolling in the school. The cost will fall on the guardians, but vaccines are cheap and are often given for free. The Department of Health and Human Services provides vaccinations for anyone who is financially unable. The bill is currently in committee but is expected to pass.