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PARK CITY DAILY NEWS

Vaccinations crucial for kids

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This letter is addressed to parents who think vaccinations do more harm than good – or in the very least feel “the jury is still out” on this issue.

Apparently, some folks have a pretty short memory when it comes to the devastating effects many diseases had before vaccines were developed. Talk to anyone in their 60s, 70s or 80s. Ask them about any friends or family members who died at a relatively young age from diseases that are now almost entirely preventable.

Case in point: To date, over 70 people who visited Disneyland recently have come down with measles. Moreover, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that there were 644 new cases of measles in 2014 spread across 27 states. That’s the highest number in a quarter century.

Unvaccinated children are extremely susceptible to measles. And those who do contract the disease have a 1 in 1,000 chance of dying from it. If your child succumbs to measles, and you did not have him or her vaccinated against the disease, then you have no one to blame but yourself for the tragedy.

If I stand in an open field during a thunderstorm and am struck by lightning, it may have indeed been “God’s will,” but I still share a great deal of responsibility for my own demise. I was taught in Sunday school that tempting fate was never a good idea.

To be clear: There is absolutely no credible scientific evidence that vaccines cause autism, attention deficit disorder, immune deficiencies, asthma or any other illness or affliction.

Vaccinations against diseases such as polio, small pox, measles, mumps, rubella and whooping cough have saved countless millions of lives over the past six decades. Their benefit to society has been demonstrated extensively and conclusively.

Get your child vaccinated.

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