

ENGS'S FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SHEILAGH ROTH'S OP-ED RESPONSE
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Vaccination for 'Childhood' Diseases and Public Health

Regarding Haider Javed Warraich's "The Measles Outbreak Coming Near You" (op-ed, Dec. 4): A major concern for parents hiring a nanny to care for their newborn child, who is too young to be vaccinated, is whether the nanny's vaccinations are complete.

As the director of a school for training nannies, I refuse admission to anyone who isn't immunized. All the pleading on "online" sites stating that vaccination is unnecessary doesn't sway me. I won't put children at risk. It is distressing how many young people have avoided vaccinations feeling confident that they are in good health, without realizing that all the responsible people who are vaccinated are protecting them from what a few years ago were life- and health-threatening diseases.

The parent who asks the nanny if she has CPR training should ask first if the nanny is vaccinated.

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The parents who don't want their children vaccinated in the mistaken belief that measles isn't a serious disease are putting more than their children at risk. In 1964 my pregnant wife contracted measles in her first trimester and became seriously ill. The doctors were concerned about the effects the measles would have on the baby, and they were right to be concerned. Our daughter was affected by the measles and has had to live with cerebral palsy all of her life. With much therapy, help and encouragement from family, church, friends and the Navy, our daughter has become a very productive, valued individual despite severe complications to her mobility.

If your daughters contract measles later in life, the consequences can be devastating.

JOHN SWEARINGEN
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So Lindey Magee isn't scared by mumps, measles and rubella. She is obviously too young to be scared. Having a sister born (and dying two months later) from hydrocephaly due to my mother's

first-trimester rubella infection, a brother with Type 1 diabetes directly due to a mumps infection, a friend in elementary school confined to a wheelchair due to polio and having myself suffered the debilitating effects of measles, I am painfully afraid for the children whose parents believe in the junk science surrounding vaccinations and who refuse to have their children immunized. What foolishness. It is tragic that people must relearn the lessons previous generations learned the hard way. Just reading Mark Twain's account (in the same-day Notable & Quotable), "a child died almost every day. The village was paralyzed with fright, distress, despair," should prompt any parent to rush her child to the pediatrician for vaccinations.

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