## Reading Part A

**Reading Part A 9.3**

# Text 1: Five Important Reasons to Vaccinate

# Adapted from *http://www.vaccines.gov/more\_info/features/five-important-reasons-to-vaccinate-your-child.html*

**Immunizations can save a child’s life.** Because of advances in medical science, children can be protected against more diseases than ever before. Some diseases that once injured or killed thousands of children, have been eliminated completely. Others are close to extinction. This is mainly due to safe and effective vaccines. Polio is an example of the great impact that vaccines had. Polio was once America’s most-feared disease. It caused death and paralysis. Today, thanks to vaccination, there are no reports of polio in the United States.

**Vaccination is very safe and effective.** Vaccines are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors, and healthcare professionals. Vaccines involve some discomfort. The injection may cause pain, redness, or tenderness. But this is minimal compared to the pain and trauma of the diseases these vaccines prevent. Serious side effects following vaccination are very rare. The benefits are much greater than the possible side effects for almost all children.

**Immunization protects others you care about**.  Children in the U.S. still get vaccine-preventable diseases. Since 2010, there have been 10,000 to 50,000 cases of whooping cough each year. About 10 to 20 babies, most too young to be vaccinated, die each year. While some babies are too young to be protected by vaccination, others may have health conditions that prevent them from being immunized. To help keep them safe, it is important that everyone else get vaccinated.  This helps prevent the spread of these diseases.

**Immunizations can save your family time and money.** Schools and daycare facilities can turn away children who have a vaccine-preventable disease. Some vaccine-preventable diseases cause disabilities. That can lead to lost time at work, medical bills or long-term disability care. In contrast, getting vaccinated against these diseases is a good investment. It’s usually covered by insurance. The Vaccines for Children program provides vaccines at no cost to children from low-income families.

**Immunization protects future generations.** Vaccines have reduced and even eliminated many diseases that once killed or severely disabled people. For example, smallpox vaccination ended that disease worldwide. Children don’t have to get smallpox shots anymore because the disease no longer exists. By vaccinating children against rubella (German measles), the risk that pregnant women will pass this virus on to their unborn or newborn child has been dramatically decreased. Birth defects associated with that virus no longer are seen in the U.S. If we continue vaccinating now, some diseases of today will no longer be around to harm children in the future.

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Text 2:

Excerpt from **Should Any Vaccines Be Required for Children?**

**ProCon.org (http://vaccines.procon.org/view.answers.php?questionID=001606)**

Jack Wolfson, DO, cardiologist at Wolfson Integrative Cardiology, in a Jan. 29, 2015 CNN interview, "Watch Doctors Have Heated Debate over Vaccination," available at www.cnn.com, stated:

"Our children have the right to get infections. We have immune systems for that purpose… These are typically benign childhood conditions. We cannot sterilize the body [with vaccines]. We cannot sterilize our society. We need to be affected by these viruses… and we can treat it all naturally."

# Group of kids

# Text 3: Your Immune System, How It Works & How Vaccines Damage It

# Adapted from <http://www.vaccineriskawareness.com/Your-Immune-System-How-It-Works-And-How-Vaccines-Damage-It>

Medical theory is that if a child is exposed to a weakened version of the disease, he will produce antibodies to that disease and become ‘immune’, so that he will never contract the illness.

At first glance, this sounds like a solid principle, BUT it only focuses on one small aspect of the immune system, the antibodies. The theory fails to look at all the other functions responsible for protecting your child’s health.

**What effect does vaccination have on the immune function?**

Vaccination – the act of artificially acquiring a disease so as to become immune to it – is flawed in a number of ways. First, a vaccine contains many hazardous chemicals and not just the viruses to immunize against. These each have their own toxic effect on the body. Secondly, most natural diseases would enter through the mouth or the nasal cavity, not the skin. Vaccination breaks the skin with a needle and injects foreign matter into the blood supply. This bypasses the skin’s role in immune function, as well as the tonsils, the mucous membranes, and so on.  Normally, the body produces extra antibodies after being primed by the tonsils that there is impending infection. Therefore, if the infection takes hold, there will be an army of white blood cells, ready to neutralize the infection.

In the case of vaccination, this infection goes straight to the blood, with no prior build up for the body. There are no extra immune cells to deal with it. Also, with vaccination there is more than one disease present (e.g. measles, mumps, rubella all in one). Normally a child would never contract 3 diseases at the same time. This puts additional strain on the immune system.

**What problems can this cause?**

Injection of vaccine takes much needed vitamins away from bones and other organs, to use for the production of more antibodies. The other vital systems go short on vitamins. In extreme cases this can lead to bone fractures. This lack of vitamins can also cause bruising, retinal bleeding, and hemorrhaging. Some vaccine-damaged babies have even been falsely labelled as ‘shaken baby syndrome’ cases. Vaccine injuries are similar to those caused by trauma.

**Text 3:** Straight Talk about Vaccination

By [Matthew F. Daley](http://www.scientificamerican.com/author/matthew-f-daley) and [Jason M. Glanz](http://www.scientificamerican.com/author/jason-m-glanz) | Aug 16, 2011 / SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Excerpt adapted from http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/straight-talk-about-vaccination/?page=2

Our investigations looked at hundreds of thousands of children in Colorado. We compared the risk of various vaccine-preventable diseases in children whose parents had refused or delayed vaccines, with children whose parents had had them vaccinated. We found that unvaccinated children were

* 23 times more likely to develop whooping cough,
* nine times more likely to be infected with chicken pox, and
* 6.5 times more likely to be hospitalized with pneumonia or pneumococcal disease

than vaccinated children from the same communities. Clearly, the parental decision to withhold vaccination places youngsters at greatly increased risk for potentially serious infectious diseases.

These results also show the flaws in the “free rider” argument, which wrongly suggests that an unvaccinated child can avoid any risks of inoculation because enough other children will have been vaccinated to protect the untreated child.

Depending on fate to soften the blow from an infection is also more dangerous than most people realize.

One out of every 20 previously healthy children who get the measles will come down with pneumonia.

One out of 1,000 will suffer an inflammation of the brain that can lead to convulsions and mental retardation.

One to two out of 1,000 will die.

**Writing Part B**

**Writing situation:** Your school board is considering a new regulation. It would deny attendance to any student who is not fully immunized against preventable diseases, as recommended by organizations such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Is this a good idea or not? Should the school mandate immunizations? Or is it up to the individual?

**Writing directions:**

Read the passages about immunization. Choose your position on the issue. Then write a letter to the school board stating whether they should turn away students who are not fully immunized. Use evidence from the articles to support your argument.