Native Boost
Understanding Childhood Vaccines
This guide was adapted from the Boost Oregon Parent Guide. The project was supported by and adapted with inputs from Tribal communities across the Pacific Northwest. With deep appreciation for the guidance and wisdom from those who serve in Indian Country, this guide is offered for those who wish to advance the health and wellbeing of all.

Boost Oregon empowers people to make science-based vaccine decisions for themselves, their families, and the community. We envision a world where people's health decisions are rooted in science.

Boost Oregon is a parent-led, Oregon 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We are funded by individuals and community foundations. We do not accept donations of any kind from pharmaceutical companies.

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Please visit our website at https://www.npaihb.org/native-boost/ and Boost Oregon at www.boostoregon.org.
Vaccines are safe

- Vaccines are one of the most thoroughly tested medical products available in the United States.
- After vaccines are recommended for use in the United States, they are continuously monitored to identify any rare side effects.

More information: http://wwwboostoregon.org/are-vaccines-safe
Vaccines protect children

- Vaccines protect children from 14 different dangerous diseases.
- An unvaccinated child exposed to a disease gets sick.
- A vaccinated child exposed to the same disease stays healthy.

More information: http://www.boostoregon.org/what-are-vaccines-and-how-do-they-work
Vaccines protect families

- Vaccines are safe.
- Vaccines protect families from dangerous diseases.
- Children and adults need vaccines to prevent dangerous diseases.
- Stay up to date with your entire family’s vaccines.

More information: http://www.boostoregon.org/are-vaccines-still-necessary
Vaccines protect the community

- We recommend vaccines for healthy children and adults in our community.
- When the majority of a community is vaccinated, we can protect the most vulnerable, including the sick and elderly.
- Vaccinating your child benefits the health of your family, friends, and neighbors.

More information: http://www.boostoregon.org/what-is-community-immunity
Vaccines are natural

- Vaccines are developed from naturally occurring diseases. Diseases consist of tiny particles called germs.
- To make a vaccine, scientists remove the dangerous parts of the germs.
- When injected, the altered germs prompt your body to create immunity (protection) from the disease without making you sick.

Vaccines protect your baby's immune system

- Your child is exposed to thousands of germs every day.
- Baby’s immune system fights most germs, but there are some deadly diseases that the immune system can’t handle.
- Vaccines strengthen your child’s immune system by helping it recognize and fight dangerous diseases.
- When a vaccinated child is exposed to dangerous germs, their body knows how to fight them. Vaccines help your baby to grow into a healthy child.

Vaccines protect you for life

- Vaccines protect your child against dangerous diseases over the course of a lifetime.
- Children and adults need vaccines to prevent dangerous diseases.

More information: [http://www.boostoregon.org/are-vaccines-still-necessary](http://www.boostoregon.org/are-vaccines-still-necessary)
Babies are born with some disease protection from Mom

- Mom passes some disease protection to the baby through birth and breastfeeding (passive immunity).
- But that protection decreases over time, and baby needs to make her own protection.
- Vaccines teach baby’s body to make her own protection (active immunity).
Over time, baby loses some of Mom’s disease protection

- By four months, baby’s disease protection from Mom is weaker than it was at birth.
- Baby needs to protect herself from dangerous diseases.
- Vaccines teach baby’s body to protect itself from dangerous diseases.

At six months, baby's disease protection from Mom ends

- At 6 months, baby no longer gets disease protection from Mom.
- Vaccines are given at 2, 4, and 6 months so baby can protect herself when Mom’s antibody protection ends.
- Delaying vaccines makes baby vulnerable to dangerous diseases.

For more information: http://www.boostoregon.org/can-i-space-out-my-childs-shots
Vaccines *do not* cause autism

- Vaccines *do not* cause autism. Over 100 scientific studies around the world have searched for a possible link between vaccines and autism, and *none* has been found.
- The specific cause or causes of autism in children are not known. Both genetics and environment may play a role.
- Avoiding vaccines can place your child and family in danger of catching and spreading dangerous diseases.

More information: [http://www.boostoregon.org/can-vaccines-cause-autism](http://www.boostoregon.org/can-vaccines-cause-autism)
**Vaccines are not a conspiracy**

- Vaccines are the best tools we have to prevent deadly diseases.
- There is no conspiracy among governments, pharmaceutical companies, or healthcare providers.
- Vaccines are cheap relative to drug treatments. Vaccine profits are only 2-3% of a trillion-dollar, global pharmaceutical industry. Your child’s vaccines are free via the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program or private insurance.

More information: [http://www.boostoregon.org/ aren't-vaccines-just-moneymakers-for-pharmaceutical-companies](http://www.boostoregon.org/ aren't-vaccines-just-moneymakers-for-pharmaceutical-companies)
We recommend vaccines for your safety, not to make money

- Medical offices do not profit from buying, storing, or administering vaccines.
- Doctors are not paid to give vaccines.
- Your child’s vaccines are free via the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program or private insurance.
- Vaccinating your child protects her and your family from dangerous diseases.
