

# AUTISM SOCIETY OF BOULDER COUNTY

PROMOTING EDUCATION & AWARENESS

## Thimerosal FAQs...

### WHAT IS THIMEROSAL?

- THIMEROSAL IS ETHYLMERCURY, A DOCUMENTED DANGEROUS NEUROTOXIN, USED AS AN INEXPENSIVE PRESERVATIVE IN VACCINES.

### WHAT AMOUNT OF THIMEROSAL IN VACCINES IS SAFE?

- THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) GUIDELINES RECOMMEND .1 MICROGRAMS PER 2.2 POUNDS OF BODY WEIGHT PER DAY AS SAFE. THE DOSE FOR A 22 LB. (AVERAGE WT - 1 YR OLD) BABY IS 1 MICROGRAM AND FOR AN 11 LB. (AVERAGE WT - 6 MO OLD) BABY .5 MICROGRAMS.

### ARE THIMEROSAL FREE VACCINES AVAILABLE?

- YES, HOWEVER NO FDA RECALL IS IN PLACE AND SOME VACCINES, LIKE THE FLU SHOT, CONTAIN 25 MICROGRAMS. VACCINE MANUFACTURERS MAY PRODUCE THIMEROSAL CONTAINING VACCINES AT WILL, AS WITHDRAWAL OF THIMEROSAL IS VOLUNTARY.

### WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO BAN THIMEROSAL?

- DUE TO THE GROWING BODY OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCH SUPPORTING NEUROLOGICAL DAMAGE RESULTING IN ITS USE, SIX STATES HAVE BANNED THIMEROSAL VACCINES (CA, IA, MO, NY, IL & DE) AND 15 STATES HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION BANNING THIMEROSAL CONTAINING VACCINES FROM USE IN THEIR STATES (FL, MD, MA, MN, NE, NV, RI, PA, OR, OH, TN, VT, NJ, NH & WA).

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## THIMEROSAL FACTS

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

#### 2003 US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THIMEROSAL DETERMINED:

- THIMEROSAL IS HAZARDOUS TO HUMANS AND UNDESIRABLE IN MEDICINAL USES AND SHOULD BE MINIMIZED OR ELIMINATED ENTIRELY IN FAVOR OF EXISTING THIMEROSAL FREE VERSIONS;
- THE FDA AND VACCINE MANUFACTURERS HAVE NEVER CONDUCTED ADEQUATE TESTING ON THIMEROSAL;
- FDA AND CDC FAILED IN THEIR DUTY TO BE VIGILANT OF CUMULATIVE AMOUNTS OF THIMEROSAL THAT CHILDREN WERE BEING EXPOSED TO VIA THE CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE. THIS LACK OF VIGILANCE EXPOSED CHILDREN IN THE 1990'S AT UP TO 125 TIMES OVER EPA GUIDELINES;
- CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BETWEEN THE VACCINE INDUSTRY AND CDC, AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM, EXISTED THAT PRECLUDED OBJECTIVE MONITORING OF VACCINE SAFETY.
- CDC & INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE (IOM) STUDIES ON A CAUSALITY LINK BETWEEN THIMEROSAL CONTAINING VACCINES AND AUTISM WERE FLAWED OR UNDERPOWERED.

#### INDEPENDENT RESEARCH OF THIMEROSAL HAS DEMONSTRATED:

- THIMEROSAL HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE FAR MORE HAZARDOUS THAN PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED BY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS. OVER TWICE AS MUCH THIMEROSAL WAS TRAPPED IN THE BRAINS OF INFANT MONKEYS, THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED POSSIBLE. (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH FUNDED STUDY CONDUCTED BY WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, BURBACHER & CLARKSON - APRIL 2005)
- THIMEROSAL DOSING OF MICE DUPLICATING THE 1990 IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE DEMONSTRATED THAT AUTISTIC SYMPTOMS COULD BE DUPLICATED VIA OVEREXPOSURE TO THIMEROSAL DEMONSTRATING POSSIBLE CAUSAL LINK. (HORNIG, CHAIN AND LIPKIN OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK - JUNE 2004) \*
- THIMEROSAL, AMONG OTHER TOXINS, INHIBITED GROWTH FACTOR SIGNALING PATHWAYS AND AFFECTED NEURODEVELOPMENT. (DETH, ETAL, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, TUFTS AND JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY - FEBRUARY 2004)

\* Issued subsequent to the 2004 IOM Report on Thimerosal and Autism, which has been similarly criticized (2003 US Congressional Hearings) as underpowered and flawed by members of Congress seeking a federal ban on Thimerosal Containing Vaccines.