

# Interview with Dr. Mark Geier and David Geier: Decreasing trends in autism and neurodevelopmental disorders following decreasing use of Thimerosal-containing vaccines

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## Abstract

Thimerosal is an ethylmercury-containing compound (49.55% mercury by weight) that has been historically added to many vaccines. Starting in the early 1990s the amount of Thimerosal administered to American infants roughly tripled with addition of hepatitis B and *haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccines. Additionally, at the same time, Thimerosal-containing Rho-immune globulin began to be routinely administered to all Rh-negative mothers at 28 weeks gestation. Concurrently, significant epidemic trends in autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders were observed in the United States. On July 7, 1999 the U.S. Public Health Services (USPHS) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a joint-statement calling for the immediate removal of Thimerosal from all vaccines citing theoretical risks posed by the cumulative mercury doses contained in routine childhood vaccines. The most recent epidemiological research has shown a significant correlation between the reduction of Thimerosal from childhood vaccines post-1999 and the rate of new cases of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders in three independent databases in the United States. In the last several years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has undertaken a campaign to rapidly expand the required U.S. childhood vaccine schedule to include additional Thimerosal-containing vaccines, so that under the immunization schedule, children may be exposed to greater than 50% of the mercury dose children were exposed to prior to the July 7, 1999 USPHS and AAP recommendation to remove Thimerosal from vaccines. All told under the new influenza vaccine immunization schedule that calls for the administration of at one influenza vaccine to all pregnant women (at any trimester during pregnancy), and subsequent administration of 6 influenza vaccines during the first 5 years of life, today's children may be exposed to greater than 125 micrograms of mercury from Thimerosal-containing influenza vaccines. It is clear given recently emerging scientific evidence that mercury has no place in pharmaceuticals administered to human populations.

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