

Vaccines safeguard kids

The article on the three-in-one jab for measles, mumps and rubella was informative (Safe To Get Jabs, LifeStyle, July 4).

Parents who still fear that the three-in-one jab causes autism can opt for their children to be vaccinated for the three diseases separately.

That was what we did for our two children. They took single shots of measles, mumps and rubella vaccinations.

Sarah Sum-Campbell

Allow me to commend you for writing a balanced article on the current debate about

the safety of vaccinations.

Sadly we still do not have a good understanding of what causes autism. However, as you correctly point out, there is a lot of credible scientific evidence to show that there is no link between vaccines and autism.

The growing trend in modern society to ignore science in decision-making and to make difficult choices based on non-scientific factors such as faith, ideology or mistrust of authorities is alarming.

Even though vaccines have virtually eliminated a host of deadly diseases such as small pox, measles and mumps, there is

a growing movement arguing that children should not be vaccinated. In North America, the movement is led by well-known public figures and celebrities who ignore scientific facts and convince their followers to reject vaccines.

The growth of the anti-vaccination movement could lead to the re-emergence of the diseases. Measles killed more than 200,000 people in 2007 in developing countries. When vaccination levels fall below 90 per cent, the so-called herd immunity breaks down and the virus can return, as is the case in Britain where the disease was once considered eradicated.

Harvey Glick