Because vaccines are cost effective it is imperative that they be given as directed by the American Pediatric Academy. If it is possible to not only curb disease but to save money in doing so, there is no reason not to vaccinate. Pfizer, a pharmaceutical company, notes the cost “For every $1.00 the U.S. spends on childhood vaccinations, $10.20 is saved in disease treatment costs.” (J) This means that a $100 vaccination is going to save just over $1,000 in medical costs. This only accounts for the savings for one individual. If an unvaccinated individual begins a chain that makes 14 people ill, then the cost spirals up to $15,300 in care when this could have been avoided via the administration of just over $1,500 worth of vaccines. This estimation is the average. Some courses of treatment will cost more, some less. If such sums of money may be saved by following the vaccination schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics, then more people should look to adhere to its recommendations.

The American Pediatric Academy clearly outlines a vaccination schedule that is not only effective in preventing disease but also reduces health care costs in the long term. The human papillomavirus (HPV) provides an excellent example of this. On its website the Center for Disease Control publishes a comprehensive According to the Center for Disease Control price list, a 10-pack of one dose vials costs $126.25 for purchase through the CDC and $177.70 for purchase by private practitioners. (H) This means that even at its most expensive price when sold to private practitioners, the HPV vaccine costs an estimated $500 per person for the series of three shots. This is a small price to pay when compared to the total cost savings. In her article “HPV Costs Americans Nearly $2 Billion to Treat”, author Amanda Hess details the price tag for treating the disease: “According to a [new study just released by the CDC](http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats/STI-Estimates-Fact-Sheet-Feb-2013.pdf), Americans contracted 20 million new sexually transmitted infections in 2008, and treating them will cost U.S. patients and insurance companies $15.6 billion over the course of the infections. After HIV—which will cost a projected $12.6 billion to treat—HPV is the most expensive STI to manage, running us a collective bill of $1.7 billion.” (G) Spending nearly $2 billion dollars to cure a disease costs approximately $500 to prevent in the first place, seems wasteful in a society that has already witnesses staggering increases in the cost of health care. It must be remembered that insurance companies always pass down the cost of their payouts to consumers. The more insurance is relied upon for treatment, the more expensive it becomes for all. In order to save insurance companies, and ultimately, consumers higher fees and taxes, the cost efficiency of vaccines when administered according to the recommendations of the American Pediatric Association should be followed.

The American Pediatric Academy’s vaccination schedule is one which should be followed, especially since its cost effectiveness has been proven. In addition to the human papillomavirus, measles is another example of unnecessary funds being spent on treatment. The vaccine for the measles is one of the diseases on price list published by the Center for Disease Control. According to the CDC, a 10 pack of one dose vials to vaccinate against the measles, mumps and rubella costs $19.90 for purchase by the CDC and $62.79 for purchase by private practitioners (H). First, it is important to note that this one shot protects against three different diseases, not just the measles; however, it is clear that the cost savings for measles alone makes the shot worth the price. Author Jonathan Berr outlines the cost of treating measles in his article “Just One Case of Measles Costs More than $10,000. Berr specifically speaks to the most recent outbreaks of the measles in the United States: “Studies based on prior outbreaks show that costs easily run to more than $10,000 per case….For example, a 2008 outbreak in San Diego, California, that began with an unvaccinated boy and led to 11 cases, cost $124,517 to contain, according to a 2010 study published in the journal [*Pediatrics*.](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/4/747/T1.expansion.html) The public sector costs of treating each case each was $10,376, including the 1,745 person hours spent on “investigation and containment efforts,” according to the study. Direct medical costs totaled $1,347 and expenses related to quarantining 48 children who were too young to be vaccinated equaled $775 per patient. A CDC study published in the journal [*Vaccine*](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24135574) noted that there were 16 measles outbreaks in 2011 that resulted in 107 cases and cost public health departments between $2.7 million and $5.3 million to combat. (I) Berr’s numbers are significant, especially when there are some school district budgets that come in between $2 and $5 million dollars a year. In theory, a school district budget was spent on seeing 107 through cases of the measles because they did not get a $20 shot. Considering that the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine protects an individual from not one but three diseases, and may be purchased for less than $2o, it is imperative the American Pediatric Academy’s vaccination schedule be followed.