



2018 Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Immunization Champion Award

Dr. Joel (Dr. Joel) Amundson, MD, FAAP

Dr. Joel's passion for childhood immunization began when he saw children suffering from vaccine-preventable illnesses. He realized that misinformation was causing parents to decline vaccines for their children. Now he runs his own pediatric practice in the heart of Portland. Despite local challenges, he has achieved 100% parental vaccination acceptance and works to equip other practices to communicate the importance of childhood immunization with parents.

Above and Beyond

Dr. Joel believes it is important to listen to parents' concerns and values and create positive vaccine messages that appeal to parents' desires for their children. Dr. Joel learned quickly that improving immunization rates does not require parents to abandon their values or to adopt a different worldview.

Dr. Joel's work has improved immunization rates, influenced countless families to choose vaccines, and inspired physicians and medical students to reshape their vaccine conversations.



- **Leadership:** President Emeritus of the Board of Directors of Boost Oregon, a non-profit organization that teaches Oregonians about the benefits and safety of childhood vaccinations.
- **Collaboration:** Leads monthly parental workshops which teaches the fundamentals about vaccines to parents, medical providers and other interested community members.
- **Innovation:** Co-authored two vaccination guides provided by Boost Oregon: "Parents' Guide to Children's Vaccines" and "Counseling Vaccine-Hesitant Patients: A Medical Providers Guide."
- **Advocacy:** Dr. Joel is passionate about assisting parents to make informed vaccination decisions for their families and their communities.