



## Vaccine Policy Statement

Thank you for choosing our office for your child(ren)'s medical home!

We value the trust you have placed in us in caring for your child(ren). As such, we are strongly committed to advice and practice preventative care as the corner stone of our service to your child(ren). Immunizations are critical in preventing diseases among the general population. Vaccines benefit both those who receive them and the vulnerable, unvaccinated people around them. In our office, we have many patients who are too young to be vaccinated and are at risk for contracting a vaccine preventable disease from a child who is non- or under vaccinated. While you may choose to assume the risk that you or your child might contract a vaccine-preventable illness, we cannot assume that risk for our patients. Adhering to the vaccination schedules recommended by the AAP and CDC is the right thing to do, and we are happy to direct you to the resources supporting that.

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines. We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We firmly believe based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. We firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines (not used in our office), does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

We firmly believe that delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers.

We recognize that the choice of vaccination may be a very complex and emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with your provider. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or

reservations. Ultimately, we wholeheartedly want to partner with you, our parents, to provide the best medical care to your child(ren).

Finally, if you should still absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views.