

## **Vaccine Policy**

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 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, 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 health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given 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.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we are even discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccination. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very 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 healthcare provider in advance of your visit. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. Please be advised, however, 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. Such additional visits will require additional co-pays on your part. Furthermore, please realize that you will be required to sign a Refusal to Vaccinate form at each checkup visit.

Although we strongly support all recommended vaccines, there are four vaccine series that we must insist that our patients receive in a timely manner to remain in our practice. The minimal four vaccines include Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP), Haemophilus Influenza B (Hib), Pneumococcal Conjugate (Prevnar) and Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR).

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Thank you for your time in reading this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

### **What We Expect**

**- Meet minimum vaccine requirement**

**DTaP:** 3 doses by 12 months, 4 doses by 2 years, 5 doses by 6 years

**Hib:** 2 doses by 12 months, complete by 2 years

**Pprevnar:** 3 doses by 12 months, complete by 2 years

**MMR:** 1 dose by 2 years, complete by 6 years

**Tdap:** 1 dose by 13 years

- **Sign vaccine refusal form every time when vaccines are offered**
- **No phone advice if not fully vaccinated**
- **Parents must accompany the child at each visit for an alternative vaccine visit**
- **Any alternative vaccine schedule must be on file and a copy of such brought to each visit**