

## VACCINE POLICY

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- We strongly believe in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. All infants, children and young adults should receive the vaccines according to the schedule supported by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as pediatricians, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The vaccine schedule we use is the result of years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by our brightest scientists and physicians. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that there is discussion about 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 known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to allay any concerns you have about vaccinating your child.
- Please know that delaying or “spacing out the vaccines” opposes expert recommendations, and places your child, other children and the community in general at risk for significant illness. If your child is not currently up to date on his or her vaccines we will create a written catch-up vaccine schedule with the goal of having your child caught up with all of the recommended vaccines in a period of 6-12 months, depending on the age of your child and how many vaccines are needed. We will ask you to sign this plan and it will become part of your child’s medical record. **If you are unwilling or unable to comply with the vaccine schedule, you will be asked to transfer to another practice in order to protect our other patients, especially those with compromised immune systems.**
- (If you refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another physician who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such physicians nor would we recommend any such physician.) As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating on schedule is the right thing to do for all children, adolescents, and adults! Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you place your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death. Thank you for reading this policy, and the trust you place in us. Please feel free to raise any questions or concerns you may have about this policy with one of us.