

## Vaccine Policy Statement

Vaccinating children and young adults may be the 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.

We advise you to vaccinate your child because we genuinely care about you and your family. No child should have to suffer from a preventable illness. We seek to educate you on the facts regarding vaccinations so you will understand the importance of choosing to vaccinate.

A thorough review of available literature, evidence, and current studies indicates that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

### Our Policy is:

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

Having stated these beliefs, we recognize that there has always been and will always be controversy surrounding vaccination. Over the past several years, many people have chosen not to vaccinate their children with after a publication of unfounded suspicion (later retracted) that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of under-immunization, there have been small outbreaks of measles and several deaths from complications of measles throughout the world.

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. **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 as well as our medical advice at Delaware Pediatrics and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death).** Such additional visits will require additional co-pays on your part.

Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers, nor would recommend any such physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability, and even death.

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. We encourage you to review the sources on the back of this page to further educate yourself on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. If you have any questions, a member of our team would be happy to discuss them with you.

## Vaccine Resources

**American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)** – [www.aap.org/immunizations](http://www.aap.org/immunizations)

Over 60,000 primary care physicians, pediatric medical subspecialist, and pediatric surgeons dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

**Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** – [CDC A-Z Index - V](#) or [www.cdc.org](http://www.cdc.org) and search vaccines  
Government resource for vaccine safety

**Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)** – [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

They work to increase immunization rates and prevent diseases by creating and distributing educational materials for health professionals and the public.

**Every Child by Two (ECBT)** – [www.vaccinateyourbaby.org](http://www.vaccinateyourbaby.org)

Devoted to the awareness of the critical need for timely immunizations. One-stop-shop for families with questions about vaccines.

**Institute for Vaccine Safety-** [www.vaccinesafety.edu](http://www.vaccinesafety.edu)

Provides an independent assessment of vaccines and vaccine safety.

**Parents of Kids with infectious Diseases (PKIDs)** – [www.pkids.org](http://www.pkids.org)

Mission to educate the public about infectious diseases, the methods of prevention and transmission. The latest advances in medicine, and the elimination of social stigma borne by the infected.

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