

VACCINE POLICY STATEMENT

Vaccinating children and young adults may be the most important health-promoting intervention we provide as healthcare providers, and you can do the same as a parent/caregiver. The recommended vaccines and their schedule are the result of years of scientific study and data collection on millions of children, conducted by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

Our Policy is:

- We believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent severe 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 American Academy of Pediatrics.

We advise you to vaccinate your child because we genuinely care about you and your family. No child should suffer from a preventable illness. We aim to educate you about the facts regarding vaccinations, so you 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.

We recognize that there has always been and will always be controversy surrounding vaccination. As a result of under-immunization, there have been outbreaks of measles and other preventable diseases. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or chicken pox.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare or coerce you but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We understand that the choice may be very emotional for some parents, and we are here to support you in making the best decision for your child's health.

Please be advised that Delaware Pediatrics follows the vaccine schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. We DO NOT offer alternative vaccine schedules or vaccine spacing. Delaying or spacing out vaccines goes against expert recommendations and our medical advice at Delaware Pediatrics.

Finally, if you refuse to vaccinate your child as per the recommendations stated above, then we will ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views. 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 firmly believe vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is suitable for all children and young adults. We encourage you to review the sources at the back of this page to further educate yourself on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. If you have any questions, a team member will be happy to discuss them with you.

VACCINE RESOURCES

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – [Vaccination Recommendations by the AAP](#)

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

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – or [www.cdc.org](#) and search vaccines

Government resources for vaccine safety

Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) – [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](#)

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](#)

Provides an independent assessment of vaccines and vaccine safety.

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