

Pediatric Care Associates Vaccine Policy Statement

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 can perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the result of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

These things being said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccinations. 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 has died of one of these diseases. Such success has made us complacent, even lazy about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

By not vaccinating your child you are taking selfish advantage of the thousands of others who do vaccinate their children, which decreases the likelihood your child will contract, one of these diseases. We feel such an

attitude to be self-centered and unacceptable.

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 very emotional for some of our 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 them with your healthcare provider. 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.** Additional visits to accommodate vaccinations will be charged an additional co pay. Furthermore, you will be required to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” acknowledgment in the event of lengthy delays.

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

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating your children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children. 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.