

Universal Pediatrics, PC Vaccine Policy

- We believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent illness and save lives.
- We believe in the safety of our vaccines.
- We believe that all children, adolescents and young adults should receive the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- We believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- We believe that thimerosa, a preservative that is in vaccines does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- We believe that vaccinating children, adolescents and young adults is the single most important intervention we perform as health care providers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of many years of scientific research on millions of children by a host of the brightest scientist and physicians.

We recognize that there has always been and will continue to be controversy surrounding vaccination. The vaccine campaign has become victim to it's own success. It is because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that many discuss whether or not they should be given. Many of us have never had to witness a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, or even chicken pox due to vaccines. Such success can cause one to be complacent about vaccinating. This opinion, if widespread, can and will lead to tragic results.

By not vaccinating your child you are taking a selfish advantage of millions of others who do vaccinate their children, decreasing the likelihood that your child will contract one of these diseases. We feel that an attitude of such caliber is unacceptable.

We are making you aware of these facts neither to scare or coerce you, but to stress the importance of vaccinating your children. We recognize the choice may be emotional for some parents. We will do everything that we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. Should you have any doubts, please feel free to discuss them with your physician in advance of your visit.

Please be advised that "breaking up the vaccines" to give one or two at a time goes against recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness. We will not administer separate vaccines that are available in combination such as MMR. Finally, If you absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will as that you complete a Vaccine Waiver Form.

As physicians, we strongly recommend that you vaccinate your child on schedule.

Thank you for taking the time to read this policy, and feel free to discuss any concerns you may have.