

ALL Pediatrics 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 vaccinations may be the single most important intervention we perform as health care providers and the most important health intervention that you choose for your children. The recommended vaccines and the published schedule are the results of years of scientific study and accumulation of data on millions of children by the brightest scientist and physicians in our country.

Unfortunately, the vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that parents are discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, most parents have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox; most people have never heard of a friend or family member who died from one of these diseases. Such successes can make us complacent about the need for vaccination. However, as such opinions have become more widespread, we are witnessing the resurgence of many of these diseases. Unfortunately, this will likely lead to tragic results.

We present these facts not to scare or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be an emotional one, and we will try our best to address your concerns and help explain that vaccinations are in the best interest of your child and the community as a whole.

In some cases, we will consider altering the schedule to accommodate parental reservations. However, please be advised that modifying the schedule to give only one or two vaccines at a time goes against expert recommendation and can put your child at risk for serious illness or even death. If your child is not fully vaccinated, be aware that your child may require more invasive testing in the event of illness. Also, your child will be at risk if you travel internationally, because many other countries have higher incidences of vaccine-preventable disease.

In the event that you wish to request an altered vaccination schedule, we will charge an additional \$30 fee for all additional nursing visits for vaccine administration.

Additionally, as of 1/1/2017, ALL Pediatrics will no longer accept patient families who have no intention of vaccinating their infants. If you are requesting an altered vaccination schedule, we require initiation of vaccinations by the age of 6 months with a plan to complete the primary vaccination series by age two years.

We also will not accept transfers of unvaccinated children over the age of 6 months into our practice. Children who transfer to ALL Pediatrics will be given 30 days in which to provide confirmation of all childhood vaccines that are currently due per the AAP's vaccine schedule, or will need to initiate vaccinations within those 30 days.

We will gladly address any additional items you would like to discuss on an individual basis.