



Doctors of Children Vaccine Policy

- **We firmly believe** in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and save lives.
- **We firmly believe** in the safety of vaccines.
- **We firmly believe** that all children and young adults should receive all 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 vaccinating children and young adults is the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers and you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and recommended schedule are the results of many years of scientific study and data collection on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

Because of the effectiveness of vaccines, many of the diseases that were once common are now rarely seen in our country. Many of you may have never known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. Such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, has and will continue to lead to tragic results.

Unfortunately, because of poor vaccine rates around the world, we are seeing a resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, meningitis, and even polio. The ease of worldwide travel makes these diseases a real threat to be imported to the US, as we are currently seeing with measles.

Outbreaks of diseases like measles are more likely to occur in communities where fewer people vaccinate according to the recommended schedule. Not vaccinating not only puts the unvaccinated child at risk, it also compromises the safety of our entire community, especially those at highest risk—those too young to receive vaccinations or those who due to illness or allergy cannot receive vaccinations. Individuals who refuse to vaccinate their children are taking selfish advantage of

thousands of others who do vaccinate their children. Vaccination is vital not only to the safety of your child, but to the safety of all the children in our community. We rely on an adequately vaccinated community to protect us all from the return of diseases that were once just a memory.

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. We know that fears of vaccination come from a desire to keep your child safe and healthy—however, please remember we have your child's best interest at heart when we recommend vaccination. Caring for the health and safety of children is our mission and our life's work. As such, we will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. Delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" goes against expert recommendations, goes against our medical advice at Doctors of Children, can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and provides no medical benefit whatsoever.

As medical professionals who care deeply about the health and well-being of your child, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with the currently recommended and available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Thank you for taking the time to read this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

Sincerely,

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