

Vaccine Policy

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Patients,

We at Delaware Pediatrics feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. This means that we will only accept patients whose parents/guardians agree to vaccinate their children according to the schedule established and published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. This measure has been taken to ensure the safety of all of our patients.

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We firmly believe in the safety of vaccines. We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause any developmental disabilities, including autism or conditions on the autism spectrum. We firmly believe that multiple vaccinations do not damage or overwhelm the immune system. We firmly believe that preservatives in vaccines are safe and harmless. We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health intervention we perform as health care providers.

Due to widespread use of vaccines, many parents have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox. Many parents have not experienced the heartbreaking tragedy of knowing a friend or family member whose child died of one of these preventable diseases. It was not long ago that these types of deaths were common. Such public health successes can create an environment where parents may become complacent about vaccinating their children. If this attitude becomes prevalent, it may lead to catastrophic results.

Over the past several decades, many people in Europe chose not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine after the publication of a now widely discredited article that suggested that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of this under-immunization, there have been outbreaks of measles and multiple deaths from measles in Europe over the past several years.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the information available from the media may be confusing for parents. As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do. We will do everything we can to reassure you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. Should you have any concerns, please feel free to discuss them with us.

For more information about vaccines you can go to: <http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center> or go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>