

## Legacy Pediatrics' Vaccine Policy

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We would be devastated if one of our patients suffered serious consequences from an illness that could have been prevented by a routine vaccine. Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and one of the most important actions you can take as parents or caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedules are the result of decades of scientific study and data gathered from millions of children by thousands of dedicated scientists and physicians.

We believe strongly in the safety of vaccines. All available literature, evidence, and current studies show that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Although we use thimerosal-free vaccines, we firmly believe that thimerosal—a preservative that has been used in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines—does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We recognize that there has always been, and likely will always be, misinformation surrounding vaccination. In many ways, the vaccine campaign is a victim of its own success. Because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness, many parents have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox, nor have they known a family member or friend whose child died from one of these diseases.

Delaying or “breaking up” vaccines to give one or two at a time over multiple visits goes against expert recommendations and our medical advice as pediatricians. This approach can place your child at unnecessary risk for serious illness or even death.

For these reasons, we firmly believe—and require at our practice—that all children and young adults receive the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We reserve the right to dismiss any family from the practice who chooses not to adhere to this recommended and required vaccine schedule.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is the right thing to do, both for individual children and for the infants in our office who are too young to be immunized. We welcome the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines.