

Medical Practices

Vaccinations are effective.

At this practice, we firmly . . .

- . . . believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.
- . . . believe in the safety of our vaccines
- . . . 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.
- . . . believe based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. We firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- . . . believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of scientists and physicians.



We recognize that the decision to vaccinate your child may be emotional for some parents, and we will do everything we can to help you understand that vaccinating according to the schedule is in the best interest of your child. We understand how difficult it is to watch your children receive multiple injections at one time. We are hoping for more combination vaccines as much as you are. However, there is ample research to reassure us that giving multiple vaccines at once, though stressful, is not overwhelming to the immune system of any child. Informational material is available at www.etch.com, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites.

As healthcare professionals we feel strongly about vaccinating your child according to the recommended schedule. In fact we feel so strongly that we will ask you to leave our practice if you choose not to vaccinate your child as we believe it would be unfair to other patients in our practice to have unvaccinated children sharing the same waiting areas. There are documented cases where children contracted measles infections while waiting in the doctor's office because they were exposed to others with measles who chose not to vaccinate.

We are making you aware of these facts to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. Thank you for your time in reading this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

If after education, you remain uncomfortable with giving your child vaccines on the recommended schedule, many of which are recommended prior to age two, you may be asked to find a different health care provider that better meets your needs. It is necessary to have a trusting relationship between you and your pediatrician in order to appropriately care for your child. We do not keep a list of such providers and cannot recommend any such provider.