



## VACCINATION POLICY

We believe that all children and young adults should receive the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. These are based on all available medical and scientific literature, evidence, and current medical studies, that vaccines do not cause developmental disabilities or autism. We believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades does not cause developmental disabilities or autism. However, none of the vaccines that we offer in this office contain thimerosal.

Over the past several years, some people have chosen not to vaccinate their children or rather to vaccinate on alternative vaccine schedules. Unfortunately, some of these decisions were made based on one flawed study that was later formally retracted, in which it was suggested that the MMR vaccine caused autism. As a result, there have been outbreaks of all these preventable illnesses, leading to deaths and disabilities from complications of these diseases which should have never occurred.

Vaccinating children and young adults is one of the single most important preventative intervention we perform as health care professionals. The recommended vaccines and their schedule are the results of many years of scientific study and data-gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

Not vaccinating your child puts your child and others in unnecessary risk for life threatening illnesses and disabilities. Not vaccinating places other children at risk that are too young or too sick to be vaccinated. Counting on others being vaccinated to protect those that are unvaccinated is not advised. Vaccines work best when each person in a community commits to preventing spread of communicable diseases.

We welcome and encourage discussing vaccines regarding your child. As medical professionals, we use evidence based in medicine, and believe very strongly that you vaccinate your child on the recommended vaccination schedule. Should you choose not to vaccinate as recommended or on an alternate schedule, you will still be provided with the vaccine information and will be required to sign a vaccine declination for at each visit in which vaccines are scheduled.

You are your child's advocate and you must do what you feel is best for your child and family. We want to respect your convictions just as we want ours respected, with that we will ask you to find an alternate practice if you completely decline to immunize your child.

### Parental/Guardian Statement

I have read and fully understand the Pediatric Associates Vaccination Policy. I understand that failing to immunize my child according to this policy is a voluntary termination of the provider-patient relationship on my part and will result in my child having to transfer to another practice.

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Patient/Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

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Patient/ Parent/Guardian Printed Name

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Phone Number

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Relationship To Patient