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"Where Compassion, Caring and Dedication Come First"

Philosophy on Vaccines

- ▶ We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and save lives.
- ▶ We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.
- ▶ We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive the 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 developmental disabilities or autism.
- ▶ We firmly 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.
- ▶ We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults is the single most important preventative intervention we perform as health care providers. 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.

Over the past several years, some people have chosen not to vaccinate their children or 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 of these preventable illnesses, leading to deaths and disabilities from complications of these diseases which should never have occurred.

Counting on others being vaccinated to protect those that are unvaccinated is unacceptable. Vaccines work best when each person in a community commits to preventing spread of communicable diseases.

We have carefully thought through our office policy and are confident that in choosing our practice you agree with our medical reasoning and recommendations. We recognize the choice may be an emotional one for some parents. We absolutely believe that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with us in advance of your visit. **We require that you commit to actively vaccinate your children and commit to a schedule that is completed by age 2 years at the latest.** Please be advised that "spreading out the vaccines" to give one or two at a time goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness and death and goes against our medical advice.

If you and your provider have discussed and agreed to adopt an alternative vaccine schedule, **it is your responsibility to inform the office of your child's under-vaccinated status during any sick visits or phone calls, especially if your child has fever.** As physicians, we feel strongly that vaccinating children on schedule, with currently available vaccines, is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults.

Finally, if you absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child, we will ask you to find another practice that shares your philosophy.