



# VACCINE POLICY STATEMENT

Community Pediatrics, SC

## We believe in vaccines

We believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness, to promote health and wellness, and to save lives.

## We believe...

- ◇ In the safety of vaccines
- ◇ That children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- ◇ That, based on all available data, scientific literature, current studies, and evidence-based medicine, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- ◇ That thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades, and that remains in only a few vaccines today, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- ◇ We 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 perform as parents/caregivers.

## We know, and want you to know

That the recommended vaccines and their schedule are the results of years and years of scientific study and research, with data gathered on millions of children, by thousands of our brightest physicians and scientists.

***If you refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts and recommendations, we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views.***

We're always happy to answer any questions or to discuss any concerns you may have about vaccines.

**We understand there has always been controversy surrounding vaccination**, and likely always will be, but that controversy does not change the facts, science, or evidence about vaccines. The vaccine campaign is a victim of its own success. It's precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we can even discuss whether or not to give them. Because of the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, few have ever seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chicken pox. And that's wonderful.

**We do not write this to scare or coerce you**, but to make you aware of the facts and emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize the choice may be emotional for some parents, so we will do all we can to support you and help you understand that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do.

**Please understand, however, that delaying or "breaking up" the vaccines** to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness or death. Doing this goes against our medical advice and our core principles at Community Pediatrics. Should you choose these options, you must sign a "Refusal to Vaccinate" acknowledgement in the event of lengthy delays.