

MID-OHIO PEDIATRICS AND ADOLESCENTS, INC.

Vaccine Policy Statement

We firmly believe in the effectiveness and safety of the currently recommended vaccines for children and adolescents.

We fully support the current vaccine schedule that is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. These schedules are continually studied and revised by experts in the field of medicine, immunology and public health.

We fully believe, based on all current science and research, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Furthermore, we believe that thimerosal, a preservative used in vaccines for decades, does not cause or worsen autism.

We firmly believe that vaccinating children and adolescents may be the single most important intervention we perform as health care providers.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we are even discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died from one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. Such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can lead to tragic results.

Over the past several years, many people in Europe have chosen to decline or delay vaccinating their children. As a result, there have been outbreaks and deaths from complications of measles.

Furthermore, by not vaccinating your child, you rely on thousands of others who do vaccinate their children. These preventable diseases still circulate, especially among unimmunized or under immunized groups. No vaccination puts your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability, and even death.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be an emotional one for some parents. **Please be advised, however, that delaying or “breaking up the vaccines” to give one or two at a time over multiple visits goes against expert recommendations, can put your child at risk for serious illness and goes against our medical advice. If you choose not to vaccinate your child (children), we will dismiss you from our practice to find another health care provider who shares your views.**

As medical professionals, we feel that vaccinating your children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do. Please feel free to discuss with us any questions or concerns you may have regarding vaccines.

Sincerely,

The Physicians of Mid-Ohio Pediatrics and Adolescents, Inc.