

## **\*\*\* Pediatrics South Vaccine Policy Statement \*\*\***

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.

We firmly 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 Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We firmly 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.

We firmly 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 many years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

### **Pediatrics South will no longer accept new patients who refuse to vaccinate.**

**This pertains to newborns and transfers to the practice.**

Please visit the following link to the AAP statement regarding vaccine refusal and to review the waiver that must be signed by the current families who refuse to vaccinate:

[www2.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/pdf/refusaltovaccinate.pdf](http://www2.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/pdf/refusaltovaccinate.pdf)

We will continue to provide care to all of our current patients and will continue to encourage proper vaccination of this group.

If a current non- or under-vaccinating family has a newborn, we will provide care for that child as we have already accepted them as our patients.

We recognize that the choice to vaccinate may be a very emotional one for some parents/caregivers. We will do everything to convince you that vaccinating according to schedule is the right thing to do. If you have doubts, please discuss them with your health care provider. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. Please be advised, 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 and goes against our medical advice as providers at Pediatrics South.

As medical professionals, 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.

**Thank you for taking your time to read our policy.**

Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us at Pediatrics South.