

Clark Pediatrics Vaccine Policy Statement

We firmly believe in the effectiveness and safety of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. 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 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 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 years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

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, you have probably not seen a child with polio or tetanus, or known of a death due to one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating.

We are making you aware of these facts to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, **should you have doubts, please discuss these with your health care provider.** Please be advised that delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice.

Finally, **if you absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite our efforts, we will ask you to find another health care provider** who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.

As medical professionals, we feel very 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 your time in reading this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.