



## **Immunization Policy**

We firmly believe in the effectiveness and safety of our vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We 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 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 or caregivers. We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

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 had died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. Vaccination of preventable disease is very important to both your child's health and to the public health of our community. Disease rates of vaccine preventable infections have increased when communities have seen decreasing vaccination rates.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults.

### **To ensure the safety of our patients we require that all our patients receive:**

- **Rotavirus:** 2 doses by 8 months old
- **DTaP:** 3 doses by 1 year old. Dose #4 by 2 years old. Dose #5 between 4-6 years old.
- **Polio:** 3 doses by 1 year old. Dose #4 between 4-6 years old.
- **Pneumococcal:** 3 doses by 1 year old. Dose #4 by 2 years old.
- **Hib:** 2 doses by 1 year old. Dose #3 by 2 years old.
- **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses by 6 years old.
- **MMR:** First dose by 2 years old. Dose #2 between 4-6 years old.
- **Chicken Pox:** First dose by 2 years old. Dose #2 between 4-6 years old.
  
- **Tdap:** 1 dose between 11-13 year old.
- **Meningitis:** 1 dose between 11-13 years old, Dose #2 between 16-18 years old.

**Hepatitis A** and **HPV** are strongly encouraged but not required at this time.

*Should you desire any alternate schedule from the CDC/AAP standard, you must provide us with a written immunization plan that fits within the requirements outlined above.*

For those wanting more information we recommend the following websites

[www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org)      [www.vaccine.chop.edu](http://www.vaccine.chop.edu)

[www.vaccinateyourfamily.org](http://www.vaccinateyourfamily.org)