

Vaccine Policy Statement

- We believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives and that the protection of children from vaccine-preventable diseases is critical
- We believe that parents should follow the immunization schedule provided by the Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians
- We believe that it is **NOT advisable** to skip or delay vaccines as this will leave the child vulnerable to disease for a longer period of time and delaying and modifying the schedule to give vaccines has not been studied
- We believe that the safety of vaccines used for our children is of utmost importance as outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and the Institute of Medicine and that the known risks from diseases are far greater than any unknown/theoretical risk from vaccines
- We know that many vaccine preventable diseases can have dangerous consequences including seizures, brain damage, and death. Currently 20% of the patients with measles are hospitalized
- In order for vaccines to protect everyone, an estimated 85-95% of the population must be immunized
- Most parents have never seen the devastating diseases that vaccines prevent. It is our goal to make sure they never do
- Regretfully parents who refuse vaccines completely or want to follow a schedule other than the one recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics may be asked to find another primary care provider who agrees with their views and opinions of vaccines
- Websites for reference: www.aap.org www.cispimmunize.org