



# Vaccination Policy

At Cumberland Pediatric Associates we firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and save lives.

We believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform. The recommended vaccines and schedule are results of years of research, study, and data on millions of children by thousands of the brightest physicians and scientists.

We firmly believe in the safety of vaccines. Based on all available literature, evidence and current research we know that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Thimerosal, the preservative used in vaccines for past, has been removed from or reduced to trace amounts in all vaccines routinely recommended for children (with the exception of one the inactivated influenza vaccines).

The widespread use of vaccinations has almost eradicated many of these illnesses. Because of vaccines, most people do not fear, polio, tetanus, whooping cough, chicken pox, or even measles. The success of the vaccine campaign therefore has altered our attitude towards these tragic illnesses making us complacent about immunizations. However, without the continued vaccination of our youth, outbreaks of these types of life-threatening illnesses will still occur.

We are also aware of the trend towards "breaking up the vaccines" and strongly advise against it. We do not believe there are alternatives to immunization and that choosing to not vaccinate your child is putting their healthy future at risk.

Your child's health is important and we believe vaccines are important to a healthy life. We understand the media hype and concerns about vaccination safety and are continually educating our providers and support team with the most current research. Since your child's health is what is most important to us we will continue to encourage you to vaccinate your child.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that this choice may be a very emotional decision for some parents. Should you have doubts, please discuss these with your healthcare provider in advance of your visit so there will be plenty of time to discuss your concerns.

Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child with the required vaccines, we then would feel there is enough of a difference in the philosophy of care that it would be best to terminate our doctor-patient relationship. We do not believe in "alternative" vaccine schedules and would not recommend any physician or provider who does. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at an unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability and death.

It is our hope that no child would be discharged from our practice due to the refusal to vaccinate. However, failure to vaccinate your child puts our providers, staff and other patients at risk to these terrible illnesses and this difference in philosophy will mean discharging your child from our care.

Sincerely,

The Staff of Cumberland Pediatric Associates