

## **Vaccine Philosophy**

As a Pediatrician and medical professional, I firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

I firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.

I 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, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

I firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. I firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that had been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

I firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults is one of the single most important health-promoting interventions I perform and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule 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.

These things being said, I recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination. Vaccines are truly a victim of their 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 parents and even physicians have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox. Unlike our parents or our grandparents, we do not know a friend or have a family member whose child died or became disabled from one of these vaccine preventable diseases.

Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. Widespread complacency can only lead to tragic results. As a result of under immunization, there have been small outbreaks of vaccine preventable illnesses causing several deaths and hospitalizations. These outbreaks of vaccine preventable illnesses have occurred both within and outside of the United States.

I believe in the importance of the administration of all the recommended vaccines at the recommended schedule. If you have questions, please feel free to talk to me or my staff.

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