

# Arundel Pediatrics Vaccine Policy Statement

At Arundel Pediatrics, we firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We follow the recommended vaccine schedule published by the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and the AAP, the American Academy of Pediatrics, which advises that all children and young adults receive all the recommended vaccines according to schedule. We believe that vaccinating children and young adults is one of the most important health promoting interventions we can perform as healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parent and caregivers.

The recommended vaccines and their schedule are the result of years of scientific study and data which have been gathered on millions of children by scientists, researchers and physicians. Vaccines have had tremendous success in preventing polio, tetanus, bacterial meningitis and chickenpox. Most of you will never know a child affected by polio due to the years of vaccinating our general population and protecting our families. That being said, we recognize that there is, and likely will always be, controversy surrounding vaccinations. We are open to hearing your concerns and having a conversation to convey our beliefs and to explain the benefits of vaccines. We are open to having a dialogue and to providing education.

In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. **PLEASE BE ADVISED HOWEVER THAT DELAYING OR BREAKING UP VACCINES** goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Arundel Pediatrics. Such additional visits will require additional copays and additional visits on your part. Furthermore, please realize that you will be required to sign a “refusal to vaccinate” form in the event of any delays.

While making ourselves open to discussions and education, we are NOT able to have patients in the practice that refuse all vaccines, or refuse to follow a reasonable schedule, as we believe this is unfair to the rest of our patients and families that we serve. If despite all of our efforts and education you are unable to reasonably vaccinate your child, we will ask that you find another health care provider who shares your views.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating our children on schedule is important to protect against serious infections, and we believe it to be one of our most important priorities as your providers.

We have your children very best health in mind - and we appreciate the opportunity to have this discussion so make sure we do our very best to care for them in every way.

Arundel Pediatrics, PA