



## Carolinan HealthCare System

### University Pediatrics – Vaccination Policy

The team at University Pediatrics wants to give you and your family the very best care according to the most accredited research in pediatric medicine. We follow the guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

#### What has changed?

We can no longer accept the risk that un-immunized or under-immunized children or adolescents (kids who haven't received all their shots) pose to other children and their families in our practice and in our communities. **So, if you decide NOT to fully immunize your child or adolescent, we will not be able to see him or her in our office.** We are doing this to protect all of our patients. Many other pediatric practices in our city and across the country have already made this change.

#### What are the benefits?

We believe vaccinating children and adolescents is one of the most important services we offer to our patients. Here are the reasons:

- Vaccines can prevent serious illness and save lives.
- Vaccines are extremely safe.

Parents and caretakers may feel that the decision to vaccinate their child is a personal one. If you choose NOT to vaccinate your child, this can affect the health of other children and adults in our country.

#### What about all the negative information I've heard?

We firmly believe vaccines do not cause autism or cause harm to a child's learning, language or behavior. Our belief is based on research studies that show how the benefits outweigh the risk of harm from vaccines. Thousands of scientists and doctors in our field have helped with the research and data collection to determine the current list of recommended vaccines.

Vaccines are safer today than ever before. It is completely safe to give multiple or combination vaccines at the same office visit. Because we live in a world where we do not see children suffering and dying from preventable diseases, some people have forgotten the threat of some of these diseases.

Children who are NOT vaccinated could experience the following:

- Loss of hearing
- Brain damage
- Death from diseases such as haemophilus meningitis or pneumococcal meningitis
- Severe handicap or crippling conditions
- Suffocation

Thank you for reading our policy. Our physicians are happy to talk with you if you have any questions.