

## University Pediatrics Position on Vaccination

We at University Pediatrics want to give you and your family the very best care based on research. 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 gotten 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 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 children, 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 harm to a child's learning, language or behavior. Our belief is based on research studies that show the benefits outweigh the risks of harm from vaccines. Thousands of scientists and doctors in our field have helped with the research and data collection to come up with the current list of vaccines.

Vaccines are safer today than they have ever been in history. 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 about the threat of some of these diseases.

Children who are NOT vaccinated could experience the following:

- Lose hearing
- Have brain damage
- Death from diseases such as haemophilus meningitis or pneumococcal meningitis
- Become crippled or lose the ability to breathe
- Suffocate

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