

Vaccine Policy Statement

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.

We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.

We 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 and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP.) All of the children of all our providers have been vaccinated in accordance with recommended schedule.

The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of years of scientific study and data-gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians. We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. We firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in trace amounts in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. In fact, the incidence of autism continues to increase in spite of the removal of thimerosal from most childhood vaccines.

Because of vaccines, most parents today, have never seen a child suffer from polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles or complicated chickenpox. Few have known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. However, some of our physicians have seen these diseases or at least 'remember the day' when they were all too common. Furthermore, we also acknowledge the fact as vaccine rates drop diseases reemerge with tragic results.

Hepatitis A and pertussis have been seen in Mecklenburg County, and measles has been seen in the Midwestern U.S. in recent years.

Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death. And furthermore, not vaccinating your child contributes to the risk to all other children who are either too young or too sick (e.g. cancer) to be vaccinated themselves.

Should you decide not to vaccinate your child after discussion with your provider, you will still be provided with vaccine information and be required to sign a declination form for each vaccine at each office visit in which vaccines are scheduled.

We are making you aware of these facts not to frighten you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Thank you for your time in reading this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

Sincerely,

The Physicians of South Lake Pediatrics