

WUCA Northwest Pediatrics Vaccine Policy Statement



The providers of Northwest Pediatrics strive to provide comprehensive, compassionate, high quality care to all of our patients and families. One of the most important services we can provide our patients is vaccination against life threatening diseases. We strongly agree with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that childhood vaccines are critical to maintaining healthy children and communities. As medical professionals, we feel that vaccinating on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults.

- **Vaccines are safe.**
- **Vaccines are effective in preventing serious illness and saving lives.**
- **All children and young adults should receive all recommended vaccines in accordance with the CDC and AAP recommended schedule.**
- **Based on all available literature, evidence, and current scientific studies: vaccines or their preservatives do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.**
- **Vaccinating children and young adults is the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and schedule are the result of years of scientific study and data gathered about millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.**
- **By asking our medically eligible patients to be fully vaccinated, we are able to protect all of our patients, including those too young or medically unable to receive all of their vaccines.**
- **Delaying or “splitting” vaccines is potentially dangerous and is not condoned by our providers.**
- **The State of Missouri also requires certain vaccines to be given to all children entering kindergarten, 8th grade, and 12th grade.**

Our providers welcome discussion about our vaccine policy with patients and families in our practice. We encourage you to discuss any concerns, doubts, or questions you may have about vaccines with us, and we will provide you with accurate medical information to answer your questions.

If you should refuse to vaccinate your child after discussion with your provider about this information and our policy, you will be advised to find a healthcare provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers. Although dismissing you from our practice is regarded as a last resort, please recognize that by not vaccinating, you place your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability, and death. You also place other children who come in contact with your unvaccinated child at risk for life-threatening illness, disability, and death.

Thank you for reading this policy, and we look forward to working together towards the health and wellness of your family.

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An excellent resource as a starting point if you would like to learn more about vaccines:

<https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center>

