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## **Vaccination Policy**

As physicians, we stand firmly behind the years of scientific research regarding vaccine safety and effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles, or even chicken pox. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The recommended vaccine schedule is the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians. Delaying or “breaking up the vaccines” to give one or two at a time over several visits goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as physicians at Pediatric Associates of Cheshire.

Based on these decades of research by the medical community, we feel very strongly that vaccinating your child on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do to protect all children and young adults. All patients in the practice are strongly encouraged to receive hepatitis B vaccine at birth; DTaP, Hib, polio, pneumococcal, and rotavirus vaccines by three months of age; measles, mumps and rubella, varicella, and hepatitis A vaccines at age 12–15 months; and TDaP and meningococcal vaccine at 11–12 years.

We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents and we are aware of the dangers of misinformation. We recommend you visit <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center> or [Immunize.org](http://Immunize.org) for reputable information regarding vaccine safety and effectiveness.

If you should refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers, nor would we recommend any such physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.