

## Pediatrics In Brevard Vaccine Policy

Dear Parents:

We firmly believe in both the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. We believe that all children and young adults should receive all of the required vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. 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. The current vaccination schedule as well as the vaccines themselves are the result of years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we see parents discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, most people have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or chicken pox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. (The thousands of children who ARE vaccinated decrease the likelihood that unvaccinated children will contract one of these diseases). If such an attitude becomes widespread, a resurgence of these diseases will occur and tragedy will result. Indeed, over the past several years, there have been outbreaks of various diseases – measles, meningitis, pertussis (whooping cough) and multiple deaths from these diseases and their complications.

We feel you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability, and even death by not vaccinating. We will always carefully review any true medical contraindications to vaccinating your child. Pediatrics In Brevard believes that it is important that we provide all of our patients with the same level of care and believe that it is unjustifiable to deviate from the established standard of care, which would leave vulnerable children susceptible to potentially deadly infections. We will work with any family whose child is not up to date with their vaccines to become compliant with current recommendations. However, while we respect a parent's personal beliefs and decision-making rights for their child, we will not assume responsibility in situations where a child is not vaccinated for non-medical reasons including religious reasons. We understand some parents may continue to refuse to vaccinate their children despite our efforts to provide them with accurate and meaningful medical and scientific data to support our policy. **Parents who refuse vaccinations according to the recommended schedule will be asked to find another health-care provider.**

Thank you for your time in examining these issues and reading this policy. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines during your appointment.

---

Signature of Parent or Guardian

---

Date