

# **Carolina Kids Pediatrics Vaccine Policy**

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At Carolina Kids Pediatrics, we are in full agreement with the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We firmly believe that all children should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Based on available literature and reliable scientific evidence, we are firmly convinced that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities and that the benefits of vaccines far outweigh their minor side effects. 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 recommended vaccines and their administration schedule are the result of years and 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 are even discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, most of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results. From measles to whooping cough, we have seen outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and deaths whenever our vaccination rates decline. These life-threatening diseases are real, and they are still deadly, as we are reminded every time we let our guard down.

Furthermore, by not vaccinating your child you are taking advantage of millions of others who do vaccinate their children, which decreases the likelihood that your child will contract one of these diseases. What if all those other parents also decided not to vaccinate?

We recognize that this choice may be a very emotional one. We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating on time is the right thing to do. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. Please be advised, however, that delaying or “breaking up” vaccines to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations and puts your child at risk for serious illness (or even death). Finally, if you should absolutely decline to vaccinate your child, we will ask that you find another health care provider who shares your views. We will provide you 30 days to make this transition, and will continue to provide health care to your child while you complete this process.

Thank you for taking the time to read this policy. If you are looking for reliable resources to research vaccine-related questions further, we advise you to visit the websites [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org) (American Academy of Pediatrics), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) (Centers for Disease Control), and <http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center> (Vaccine Education Center).