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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 vaccines. The recommended vaccine schedule is 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 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 Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- † 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 some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- † We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as doctors, and that you can perform as parents.

The vaccine campaign is 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, many people have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox. Though it used to be tragically commonplace, most people no longer know a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent about vaccination. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. Social media and internet sensationalism has created a great deal of anxiety in many people. However, vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. The doctors here all vaccinate their own babies according to the CDC recommendations. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental anxiety. **Please be advised, however, that delaying or breaking up vaccines goes against the recommendation of the doctors at Pediatric Associates, expert recommendations, and scientific evidence, and can put your child at risk for serious illness and death.** Parents will be required to sign a Refusal to Vaccinate acknowledgement in the event of lengthy delays.

All patients in our practice are required to receive a minimum of DTap, Hib, polio, and pneumococcal by 3 months of age, the second dose of each of these by 6 months of age, and the third dose of each by 10 months of age. They must have all AAP-recommended doses of MMR, varicella, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, DTAP, and polio vaccines by two years of age. The MMR, Varicella, polio, and DTaP boosters must be completed by 6 years of age. The meningococcal vaccine and the TDap booster must be received by age 12.

Out of commitment to the safety of your child and all of the other children in the waiting room, we cannot continue provide medical care to families who will not follow the above guidelines. There are currently no pediatric offices in the immediate area that are accepting unvaccinated children into their practice. 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.

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date: May 10, 2018