

Vaccine Policy

At North Florida Pediatrics, we believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness, to promote health and wellness, and to save lives. We also believe in the safety of vaccines.

We believe, based on all available data, scientific literature, current studies, and evidence-based medicine, that vaccines do *not* cause autism or other developmental disabilities

We believe that children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the [Center for Disease Control](#) and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We believe that vaccinating children and young adults is the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you perform as parents/caregivers.

We know, and want you to know, that the recommended vaccines and their schedule are the results of years and years of scientific study and research, with data gathered on millions of children, by thousands of our brightest scientists and physician.

We understand that there has always been, and will likely always be, controversy surrounding vaccination. But that controversy does not change the facts, or the science, or the evidence about vaccines.

The vaccine campaign is a victim of its own success. It's precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we even discuss whether or not they should be given. Because of the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox. And that, of course, is a wonderful thing.

We write this statement not to scare you, nor to coerce you, but to make you aware of the facts, and to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be emotional for some parents, so we will do everything we can to support you, and to help you understand that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do.

Please understand, however, that delaying or "breaking up" the vaccines to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness or even death. Doing this goes against both our medical advice and our core principles.

As medical professionals, we know that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for *all* children and young adults. We're always happy to answer any questions, or to discuss any concerns, you may have about vaccines.