

Immunization Policy

At Cove Pediatrics we are absolutely dedicated to providing the highest quality of pediatric care to your children.

- We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and save lives.
- We firmly believe that all infants, children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the current schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- We firmly believe in the safety of the recommended vaccines and vaccine components.
- We firmly believe that vaccines do not cause autism or developmental delays. This belief is based on evidence-based literature and is scientifically proven that vaccines (including thimerosal containing vaccines and measles-mumps-rubella vaccine) do **not** cause autism or developmental delays.
- We firmly believe that annual influenza immunization prevents serious illness and saves lives.

This being said, we understand that there remains a controversy surrounding vaccination. It is because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that our culture no longer recognizes the severity of the diseases that they prevent. Our families have never lost a child to polio, tetanus, whooping cough, or bacterial meningitis. We cannot become complacent about vaccinating or we can lose the protection that vaccines can give.

Due to low vaccination levels within certain parts of the US, there have been outbreaks of measles, whooping cough, and bacterial meningitis leading to serious illness and deaths.

We will strongly encourage you to immunize your child (as we immunized our own children) based on the current schedule. We realize that choosing to immunize can be an emotional choice for some families. If you choose not to vaccinate at all we do not feel that we are the correct practice for your child. We are willing to discuss individual immunization preferences. We will only work with families that work towards complete immunization. We will remind you at every opportunity to complete any missing or late immunizations.

We appreciate you taking the time to read our policy. Please feel free to discuss any issues at your child's visit.

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