

DICKERSON PEDIATRICS
Immunization Policy Statement
Effective September 1, 2014

We firmly believe that routine childhood immunization prevents illness and save lives.

We firmly believe that routine childhood immunizations are safe.

We firmly believe that immunization is the single most important preventive healthcare measure available to children in the United States.

We firmly believe that all eligible children should be immunized according to the U.S. Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule published yearly by the CDC.

Immunizations are the biggest medical success story of the 20th century. As a result of routine immunization:

- American children no longer contract polio
- Smallpox no longer exists
- German measles (rubella) and its threat of birth defects have decreased dramatically
- The incidence of whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles and chicken pox was declining in many locations (until delayed or alternative immunization schedules were started)

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of having your child immunized. We understand that many good parents have questions and even some concerns about childhood vaccines. We also understand that a very few patients have medical contraindications to certain immunizations. We will do everything we can to convince you that completing the immunization schedule on time is in your child's best interest. However, should you still have reservations, please discuss these with your provider. In certain cases, we may agree to alter the recommended schedule to accommodate specific parental concerns or reservations. Please be advised that if you elect to follow an unconventional immunization schedule, you will be required to present that schedule to your provider for review before we will consider following it. In most cases, these unique requests will result in additional vaccine visits with a provider and additional co-pays as required by your insurance company. In addition, for each encounter that results in a child that is incompletely immunized as per the U.S. Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, you will also be required to sign a "Refusal to Vaccinate" acknowledgement which will be kept on file.

Any patient who remains unimmunized by his first birthday will have his medical record reviewed by the partners Dickerson Pediatrics, P.A.. Unless there is an existing medical contraindication to immunization, you may be asked to comply with a catch-up immunization schedule or be asked to find another health care provider. We hold this position because we firmly believe the decision to delay immunization puts your child and others at unnecessary risk of life-threatening illnesses, disability and death.

Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any of us. We strive to keep each one of "our kiddos" happy, healthy and free of preventable diseases.

Cassandra Dickerson, M.D.

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