

Below is the policy statement of Laurel Pediatric and Teen Medical Center regarding parents or custodian delaying or declining recommended immunization.

### **Laurel Pediatrics Teen and Medical Center 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 our vaccines.

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 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 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 schedule given are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

These things being said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination.

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, many 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 from one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

Over the past several years, many people in Europe have chosen not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine after publication of an unfounded suspicion (later retracted) that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of under immunization, there have been small outbreaks of measles and several deaths from complication of measles in Europe over the past several years.

We are making you as the parent/caregiver aware of these facts not to scare or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. Our office will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. If you have any doubts, talk to your health care provider.

*If you decide to refuse, delay, or break up vaccines, you will need to sign our office and American Academy of Pediatrics' "Refusal to Vaccinate" form. All other forms or letters offered and prepared by parents or their counsel shall not replace the **required** Vaccine Refusal form of Laurel Pediatric and Teen Medical Center.*

*Refusal to sign the Vaccine Refusal form of American Academy of Pediatrics adopted by Laurel Pediatric and Teen Medical Center will result into discontinuation of doctor/provider –patient relationship and disagreement with our office policies. **We will advise you to transfer your child care to another health care provider who shares your views.** We do not keep a list of Pediatricians who accept or share your views against vaccine refusal and refusal to sign vaccine refusal form.*

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. 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 of your health care providers.

5/23/12

Generosa C. Lazor, MD, FAAP

Jennifer Seibel PA

Janice Nosek PA