

PINEHURST FAMILY CARE CENTER, P.A. VACCINE POLICY STATEMENT

- We firmly believe in the effectiveness and the safety of vaccines to prevent serious illness
- We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the CDC, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics
- We firmly believe, based on all available scientifically reviewed literature and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism, any chronic disease, or developmental disabilities
- We firmly believe that vaccinating children may be the single most important health-promoting intervention that we can perform as providers and that you can provide for your child

These things being said, we recognize that there will always be controversy surrounding vaccination. As a parent, you want to make the right choices for your child to protect them. We urge you to ask questions and research **reliable** vaccine resources such as the ones referenced on our Website. Too many parents are misled by anti-vaccination rhetoric based on pseudoscientific bogus research, personal anecdotes, conspiracy theories, or celebrity crusades. The recommended vaccines and their schedule are the result of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians with only the health of your children at heart.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. Precisely because they are so effective, many people have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chicken pox, or known of deaths from these historically serious illnesses. Such success can lead to complacency about vaccinating, but such attitudes have led to tragic results over recent decades when vaccination rates, particularly related to MMR and DTaP, declined and small pockets of outbreaks occurred with several deaths from complications.

Furthermore, by not vaccinating your child to help maintain adequate “herd immunity,” you are taking selfish advantage of the others that are vaccinating, which decreases the likelihood of your child contracting a given disease. This does not guarantee your child won’t contract a preventable disease, however, and then suffering potentially severe consequences, as well as perhaps exposing other children that are too young to be vaccinated or for whom vaccines are medically contra-indicated.

We recognize that this can be a difficult and emotional choice for some parents, but please discuss specific or general concerns with your health care provider. In some cases, the schedule may be slightly altered due to parental concerns, **but delaying or breaking up vaccines to give just one or two at a time over multiple visits goes against expert recommendation and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death).** Besides delaying protection with no evidence of enhanced safety, such additional visits may require additional co-pays, missed time from work, and inevitably lead to missed doses of vaccines. Furthermore, please realize that you will be required to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” acknowledgement in the event of lengthy delays or complete refusals. Finally, should you absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite our efforts to address your concerns, we reserve the right to ask you to seek another health care provider who may accommodate your views.

Thank you for reading this policy. Feel free to discuss any questions with any of our providers.

Revised 11/14/16



Pinehurst Family Care Center, P.A.

Acknowledgement Sheet of Immunization Policy

I _____ the parent or guardian of _____
have received, read and understand the following Immunization policy for Pinehurst Family Care Center, P.A.

Signature

Date