



Margiotti & Kroll Pediatrics Vaccine 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 American Academy of Pediatrics and supported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- 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 thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does 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

The vaccine campaign is a victim of its own success. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chicken pox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if becomes widespread, can lead to tragic results. For example, over the last several years, many people in Europe have chosen not to vaccinate their children with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine after publication of an unfounded suspicion (later retracted) that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of this underimmunization, there have been small outbreaks of measles and several deaths from complications of measles in Europe over the past several years. By not vaccinating your child, please recognize that you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life threatening illness and disability, and even death. As providers and an advocate for the health of your child, we do not feel comfortable with this choice.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccination according to the AAP schedule is the right thing to do. We also strongly disagree with delaying or "splitting up the shots". This goes against medical advice and as providers we will not approve deviations from a vaccine schedule that has been developed and established using years of evidence-based data.

Finally, despite our attempts to convince you otherwise, if you should refuse to vaccinate your child, we will respectfully ask you to find another health care provider who will allow this vaccine refusal choice. As a point of fact, we do not keep a list of such providers, nor would we recommend any such physician.

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 one of us.

Sincerely,

Margiotti & Kroll Pediatrics, P.C.