



Concord Children's Clinic

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CONCORD CHILDREN'S CLINIC VACCINE POLICY STATEMENT

We at Concord Children's Clinic provide the best care that we can to our patients. We firmly believe in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. We believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines in very small amounts, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers. The recommended vaccines and the schedule given are the result of decades of scientific studies and data gathering from millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientist and physicians. These things said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccinations.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that parents today are even discussing whether they should be given to their children. 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 of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating.

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 everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with your health care provider in advance of your visit. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. Please realize

that you will be required to sign a "Refusal to Vaccinate" acknowledgement in the event of refusal or delay of vaccines.

Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers, nor would we recommend any such physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.

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 our adults.

Thank you for your time in reading this policy, and feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about eh vaccines with any one of us.

Sincerely,



Hemant Prakash, MD



Julia Blevins Richards, MD



Laura Mock, MD



Colleen Hibbert, PNP



Nicole Cottone, FNP



Ella Little, PNP