

# PEDIATRIC WELLNESS OF NORTHERN NEW YORK, P.C.

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## Vaccine Policy

Thank you for choosing our office to be the Pediatricians for your children. We understand the importance of your decision and take this responsibility quite seriously. We will do our very best to provide your family with the best medical care possible. We believe, like you, there is nothing more important than keeping your children healthy and safe. As your children's pediatricians, we believe firmly that the following based on scientific evidence about vaccines:

- 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 Prevention 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 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 healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and the vaccine schedule 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.

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

We acknowledge that the decision to vaccinate your child is a personal one. 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. Should you have doubts, please discuss these with your healthcare provider in advance of your visit. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns. **Please be advised, however, that delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Pediatric Wellness of Northern New York.**

**All patients in our practice are required to have Varicella, Hep B, DTAP, Polio and HIB by 1 year and Varicella #2 and MMR by age 15 months. All other vaccines will be required by age 5 years.**

Because we are committed to protecting the health of your children through vaccination, we require all of our patients to be vaccinated. If you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any of our providers.

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_