



## Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine 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 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. 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.
- Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with measles, polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases.
- Not vaccinating puts a child's health and the health of others around them at a significant risk.
- We understand and respect that parents/guardians ultimately make the decision to vaccinate or not. ***We feel it is our responsibility to provide the most up to date and scientific information to assist in this decision making.***
- We recognize that there are potential side effects from vaccines and will always take this into consideration for each individual child before recommending vaccines. This country has a very robust vaccine adverse event reporting system which allows us to be fully informed of the risk for possible adverse effects. For the vast majority of children, the risk from vaccination is very small compared to the risk of acquiring a vaccine-preventable disease.

***Other than you, nobody feels more strongly about your child's health than your pediatrician. The fact that we believe so strongly in the benefits of vaccines should encourage and reassure you. Therefore, we will take the opportunity to discuss the benefits of vaccination at every appropriate visit.***

**If, after a thorough discussion with us, you decide not to vaccinate:**

- You will be required to sign a Refusal to Vaccinate document, which clearly states the risks of not vaccinating.
- Know that when your child is ill, they may need to have a more extensive evaluation such as labs or imaging to rule out vaccine preventable diseases.
- If we spend a significant amount of time discussing vaccination, but vaccination is declined, we reserve the right to bill for this counseling service. Depending on insurance, there may be patient responsibility for this charge.

Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child and other children in the community at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death. It will be our expectation that our patients will comply with the practice's vaccine guidelines. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of our providers. **We are here for you.**

Gary J. Nielan, M.D.

Kimberly A. Dewey, M.D.

Melissa Maciborski, M.D.

Rachel McKenna, C-PNP

Amy C. Kasper, M.D.

Priya S. Malik, M.D.

Julia Komatsu, M.D.

Solmaz Masoudi, P.A.

Kimberly J. Martins, M.D.

Thirza C. Lareau, M.D.

Shatabdi Pinky, M.D.