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Southwest Pediatrics-WUCA Vaccine Policy Statement

We firmly believe:

1. Vaccines are effective in preventing illness and saving lives.
2. All children and young adults should receive all the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
3. Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.
4. Vaccines are safe.
5. Based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

The recommended vaccines and the immunization schedule given 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 successes. Because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness, most people 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 from one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. This attitude, if it becomes widespread, will lead to tragic results.

Over the past several years, some people in the United States and Europe have chosen not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine after publication of research (since found to be fabricated) that the vaccines caused autism. As a result of under-immunization, there have been throughout Europe and the U.S. outbreaks of measles as well as deaths from complications of measles.

Furthermore, those who do not vaccinate their children are taking advantage of millions of others who do vaccinate their children, which decreases the likelihood that an immunized child will contract one of these diseases. We feel such an attitude to be unacceptable.

We are making you aware of these facts 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 vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with your health care provider. If you choose not to adhere to the recommended schedule, you will be required to sign a release of liability form and agree that all vaccines recommended up to and including 18 months must be completed in that time. Please be advised that delaying or breaking up the vaccines, in order 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 death.

Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all of 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. 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 strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults.