

LEE'S SUMMIT PEDIATRICS VACCINE POLICY STATEMENT

Adopted 10-13-2008

◆We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.

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 had been in vaccines for decades, and still remains in trivial amounts in a few immunizations (i.e. adult flu vaccine) does not cause autism or developmental delays.

◆We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illnesses, minimize complications of these diseases and save lives.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. Because of vaccines, many people have never seen a child with polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) or bacterial meningitis. Such success can make us complacent, and this may lead to tragic results. Over the past several years, many people in the U.S., as well as Europe, have chosen not to vaccinate their children. As a result of under-immunization, there have been significant outbreaks of measles, resulting in serious complications and even deaths.

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, and we will do everything we can to explain why vaccinating according to the recommended schedule is absolutely the right thing to do.

◆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 the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The current guidelines represent the result of many years of scientific study, experience, and data-gathering on millions of children. While we make every effort to accommodate parental concerns, please be advised that delaying or "breaking up" the immunizations to give just one or two at a time goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness or death.

◆We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we offer.

Should you refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views. Please recognize that by not immunizing, you are putting your child at risk for life-threatening illnesses.

◆Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you have about the vaccines with any one of us. We will be happy to provide additional information at your request.

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