

Vaccine Policy Statement for Genesis Pediatrics

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and save lives.

We firmly believe in the safety of 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.

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 parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their 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.

With that said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination.

Indeed, Benjamin Franklin, persuaded by his brother, was opposed to smallpox vaccine until scientific data convinced him otherwise. Tragically, he had delayed inoculating his favorite son Franky, who contracted smallpox and died at the age of four, leaving Ben with a lifetime of guilt and remorse. Quoting Mr. Franklin's autobiography:

"In 1736, I lost one of my sons, a fine boy of four years old, by the smallpox...I long regretted bitterly, and still regret that I had not given it to him by inoculation. This I mention for the sake of parents who omit that operation, on the supposition that they should never forgive themselves if a child died under it, my example showing that the regret may be the same either way, and that, therefore, the safer should be chosen."

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 chicken pox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases.

After publication of an unfounded accusation (later retracted) that MMR vaccine caused autism in 1998, many people in Europe chose not to vaccinate their children. As a result of underimmunization, there were large outbreaks of measles, with several deaths from complications of the disease. In 2010 there were more than 2,000 cases of whooping cough in California, with nine deaths in children less than six months of age. Again, many of those who contracted the illness had made a conscious decision not to vaccinate. Furthermore, by not vaccinating your child, you are taking advantage of thousands of others who do vaccinate, decreasing the likelihood that your child will contract one of these diseases. Without vaccinating your child, you risk the health of others who are unable to receive vaccinations due to a suppressed immune system.



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. The providers at Genesis Pediatrics may work with parents to alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations.

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. Such additional visits may require additional co-pays on your part. We will request that you sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” acknowledgment in the event of lengthy delays.



All patients in the practice are strongly encouraged to receive hepatitis B vaccine at birth, DTaP, Hib, polio, pneumococcal, and rotavirus vaccines by three months of age; measles, mumps and rubella, varicella (chickenpox), and hepatitis A vaccines at age 12–15 months; HPV and meningococcal vaccine at 11–12 years (HPV can be given as early as 9 years of age); and annual influenza vaccine. Also, if RSV vaccine was not given during pregnancy, we recommend that your newborn receive an RSV preventive antibody before or during the RSV season. You can view more information at:

<https://www.vaccineinformation.org/infants-children/schedules/>.

Finally, if you decide that vaccinating your child does not align with your beliefs, we may ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers, nor would we recommend one. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at risk for life-threatening illness and life-long disability or death.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating your child on schedule with currently available vaccines is the right thing to do to protect all children and young adults. Vaccinations in children who can receive them is paramount as there are other children or adults who cannot receive vaccines due to a suppressed immune system from chemotherapy or after receiving life saving organ transplantation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this policy. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us providers.

Sincerely,

All the healthcare providers at Genesis Pediatrics, LLC.