



Muddy Creek Pediatrics

Your Kids. Our Kids.

Vaccination Policy

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

1. We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.
2. We firmly believe that all children should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) of the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP).
3. We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
4. We firmly believe that vaccinating children may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and the [schedule](#) given are the results of scientific study and data gathering.

We recognize that there has been and always will be controversy surrounding vaccination. 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 they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of us have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis), 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. Over the past several years, many people in the United States, Canada and Europe have chosen not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine. As a result of under-immunization, there have been outbreaks of measles and several deaths from complications of measles in Europe over the past several years, as well as larger, very recent outbreaks in the U.S., particularly here in Ohio.

Our goal is to always provide you with the best medically-proven information available on immunization safety. Scientific research and the medical evidence support the fact that vaccinating according to the schedules published by the ACIP, CDC, and AAP is the right thing to do for your child's health.

However, should you have doubts, please discuss them with one of us at your visit. 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 here at Muddy Creek Pediatrics.

It is ultimately your choice and responsibility to decide whether to follow the recommended schedule of vaccinations for your child. If you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, or depart from the updated CDC immunization schedule, we ask you to understand that while we will respect your decision, we are certainly not in agreement with your wishes. We want you to recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death. In addition, you are putting anyone your unvaccinated child may come into contact with at significant risk for the same serious consequences.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating our patients on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

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