

Immunization Policy Statement

Effective August 1, 2017

We firmly believe that routine childhood immunization prevents illness and saves lives.

We firmly believe that routine childhood immunizations are safe.

We firmly believe that immunizations is the single most important preventive healthcare measure available to children in the United States.

We firmly believe that all eligible children should be immunized according to the U.S. Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule published yearly by the CDC.

We firmly believe in the concept of “herd immunity”- recognizing that, because there exist vulnerable patient populations for whom immunizations are medically contraindicated, there is a moral and ethical obligation for the rest of us to do what we can to minimize the likelihood of infection transmission.

Immunizations are the biggest medical success story of the 20th century. As a result of routine immunization:

- American children no longer contract Polio
- Smallpox no longer exists
- German measles (rubella) and its threat of birth defects have declined dramatically
- The incidence of whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles, and chicken pox decreased in many locations (until delayed or alternative immunization schedules were started)

We cannot over-emphasize the importance of having your child immunized.

We understand that many good parents have questions and even some concerns about childhood vaccines. We also understand that a very few patients have medical contraindications to certain immunizations. We will do everything we can to convince you that completing the immunization schedule on time is in your child’s best interest. However, should you still have reservations regarding immunizations, please discuss these with your provider. In certain cases, we may agree to alter the recommended schedule to accommodate specific parental concerns.

Should you elect to follow an unconventional, alternate, or incomplete vaccination schedule, we will ask you to transparently disclose your intentions to your primary provider. That way your child’s record can be updated accordingly so that each clinician with whom you interact with is apprised of your intentions.

Please be advised that, in most cases, these unique requests will result in additional vaccine visits with a provider and additional co-pays as required by your insurance company. Furthermore, for each encounter that results in a child that is incompletely immunized as per the U.S. Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, you will also be required to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” acknowledgement which will be kept on file.

National statistical data suggests that only an extremely small percentage of parents refuse to immunize under any circumstances. If you are among those who know from the outset that you will not immunize your child at all, we ask that you find another healthcare provider. We firmly believe that your choice to not vaccinate your child puts not only your child at risk, but other infants, young children, and pregnant mothers at unnecessary risk for life threatening illness, disability, and death. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any of us. We strive to keep each one of “our kiddos” happy, healthy, and free of preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

The Providers at Coastal Pediatric Associates