



Vaccine Policy Statement

We firmly believe:

- In the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.
- In the safety of our vaccines.
- 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.
- Based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- That vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.

These things being said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely 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 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 chickenpox. Because of vaccines, many of you have never known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Before vaccines, millions of healthy normal children would be hurt, permanently disabled, and killed by the diseases that we can now help prevent. Such successes can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. Such an attitude has led to deaths, disabilities and community outbreaks.

We recognize that this choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. If you have concerns about vaccinations, it is vital you and your family be informed by trustworthy and accurate sources. The following is a list of some reliable resources:

- <https://www.whattoexpect.com/child-vaccinations/what-shots-to-get.aspx>
- <https://vaccinateyourfamily.org/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>
- <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/child-life-education-and-creative-arts-therapy/prepare-your-child-visit-doctor/vaccine-support>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/vaccines-calling-shots.html>

If you or your child (0-18 years) are Uninsured, Underinsured, American Indian or Alaskan Native or are enrolled in Medicaid, you qualify for vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program offered here at the health department. There is a vaccine administration fee; this fee can be waived for VFC eligible individuals if the fee is a hardship.

The Michigan Public Health Code requires a parent or guardian wishing to exempt his or her child from a particular vaccination to provide a waiver form to the licensed daycare or school. This waiver must be certified by our health department professionals and signed by the parent or guardian acknowledging that they have been informed that they may be placing their child and others at risk of serious illness should he or she contract a disease that could have been prevented through proper vaccination.

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

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