

## VACCINE POLICY

At Carolina Pediatrics, we form a partnership with parents to promote and provide the best health for their children. This includes encouraging parents to vaccinate their children according to the current immunization schedule supported by the Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control. Outbreaks of pertussis (“whooping cough”) and measles in the Triad area as recent as 2013 serve as reminders of how important vaccinating children is to their wellbeing, and to that of our community.

We understand that the decision to vaccinate your child can be a complicated and emotional one. We expect and hope to engage in an ongoing conversation with you as your pediatrician, with the goal of encouraging you to vaccinate your child according to the recommended schedule. The vaccines provided to your children in this timely manner has been proven to minimize potential side effects, while maximizing both individual and community immunity for many vaccine-preventable diseases.

For those families who have questions or concerns about the recommended schedule, we will enforce the following policies:

1. Parents who would like to discuss concerns/questions regarding the current vaccination schedule are encouraged to schedule a **separate immunization consultation visit** with your provider to allow for enough time to address all questions.
2. Should parents request breaking up vaccinations (i.e. following an alternative schedule), **we may or may not be able to accommodate your request**. These families will be advised that doing so can put their child at risk for serious illness, and is against our advice.
3. For those families who choose to refuse and/or delay vaccinations for their children, they will be asked to **sign a Refusal to Vaccinate form** to reflect their decision to go against the advice of their provider at each well visit.

Unfortunately there are circumstances where, despite ongoing conversation, your pediatrician may decide that the partnership is not conducive to promoting and providing optimal care for your child(ren). In these cases, a family may be asked to seek care with another physician who shares their philosophy. Ultimately, our goal is to encourage and support the well-being of children, and look forward to working with you in this endeavor.