

Alabaster Pediatrics Vaccine Policy Statement

At Alabaster Pediatrics we firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. Therefore, we also firmly believe 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.

We also firmly believe, based on all the available literature and evidence, that the vaccines we recommend are safe for administration. All currently recommended vaccines are the result of many years of scientific study and research by thousands of exceptional scientists and physicians. In light of recently circulating false information, we also want to specifically assure you that we firmly believe that vaccines do 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 health care providers and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. We are thankful that our vaccination efforts in the United States have been so successful that we only rarely if ever encounter many of the severe diseases we are vaccinating against. However, we fear that the lack of awareness about these deadly illnesses may cause many parents not to realize the importance of protecting their children. While you may have never seen a child with whooping cough, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, bacterial meningitis, or even chicken pox, let us assure you that these diseases are still present in the U.S. and even in Alabama. Even polio is still present in parts of world and could again return to the U.S. through international travel. One of the greatest advances of modern medicine in the U.S. has been the eradication of so many deadly diseases.

We know that as a parent you desire to provide a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment for your child as they grow and develop. At Alabaster Pediatrics our goal is to provide you with reliable and evidence-based information and care for your children as we both strive to optimize their journey through childhood. We understand that many parents may have concerns about vaccination, especially in light of the media's inaccurate presentation of the facts on vaccinations. We will do everything we can to inform you that vaccinating according to the recommended schedule is the best protection for your child. As your pediatricians we feel that we must remain advocates for your children and for truth. Protection of our patients' health remains our highest priority.

Our current policy regarding vaccination is that your child's immunizations must begin by the 2 month well-child visit and that their immunization schedule must fall within the recommended immunization schedule by the CDC and the AAP.

This will allow for some alteration or “breaking up” of the routine schedule by giving one or two vaccines at a time over two or more visits if requested by parents with concerns or reservations. However, please be advised that any deviation from the recommended schedule is against our advice and can put your child at risk for serious illness or even death. And please know that in this situation we will not be able to recommend an “alternate vaccine schedule” for your child. If you desire an alternative vaccine schedule for your child you will be required to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” form at each visit acknowledging that we do not endorse the alternative schedule as the safest for your child. Additional visits for catch-up immunizations will require additional co-pays at the time of the visit.

If you continue to feel that you must refuse recommended immunization for your child despite having knowledge of all the valid information, then we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views. Please recognize that by not vaccinating your child you put not only your child but also other patients and children at risk.

As the pediatricians of Alabaster Pediatrics we feel very strongly that vaccinating children in compliance with the recommended immunization schedule is an integral part of our mission to provide excellent healthcare for your family. We hope that you understand our fervor regarding this issue and we appreciate your time in reading this policy. Other beneficial and accurate information for review can also be found at the following websites:

www.aap.org/healthtopics/immunizations.cfm

www.cdc.gov/vaccines

www.cispimmunize.org

www.immunize.org/autism

Please feel free to discuss any further questions or concerns you may have with your physician.

Sincerely,

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