



Red Clover Pediatrics, PLLC

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VACCINATION POLICY

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

We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.

We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does 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 healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.

The recommended vaccines and their schedule are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians. 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 us have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chicken pox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating.

We recognize that the choice may bring up strong emotions for some parents and that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination. We will do everything we can to help you understand the reasons to vaccinate according to the recommended schedule. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with Dr. Gunn in advance of your visit. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. 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

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risk for serious illness and goes against our medical advice as providers at Red Clover Pediatrics. Please realize that you may also be required to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” acknowledgement in the event of delays.

All patients in the practice are strongly encouraged to receive hepatitis B vaccine at birth, DTaP, Hib, polio, pneumococcal, and rotavirus vaccines by three months of age; measles, mumps and rubella, varicella (chickenpox), and hepatitis A vaccines at age 12–15 months; HPV and meningococcal vaccine at 11–12 years (HPV can also be given as early as 9 years); and annual influenza and COVID-19 vaccine. Also, if RSV vaccine was not given during pregnancy, your newborn should receive an RSV preventive antibody before or during the RSV season. You can view a parent-friendly version of this schedule at www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4050.pdf.

Finally, if you should choose not to vaccinate your child, or plan to significantly alter the schedule (aside from flu, COVID-19, RSV), we kindly ask you to find another healthcare provider. As medical professionals, we feel very strongly about vaccinating your child on schedule with currently available vaccines to protect all children and young adults. Thank you for taking the time to read this policy. Please feel free to discuss any questions you may have with Dr. Gunn.

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