



South River Pediatrics Vaccine Policy

The providers at South River Pediatrics have carefully reviewed our approach to vaccinations within our practice. The following statements conclude our views:

- We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.
- We firmly believe in the safety of all vaccines.
- We 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 (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
- We firmly believe, based on all available scientific literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely due to the fact the vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we have parents who have become complacent about vaccinating. As a result of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or chickenpox, or known of a family member or friend whose child died as a result of these diseases. Unfortunately, the healthcare providers within our practice have witnessed children suffer and/or die from these vaccine preventable illnesses.

Vaccinations are a crucial part in preventing disease among the general population. Vaccines not only benefit those who receive them, but also the vulnerable population who may not be eligible for vaccination due to age or other medical contraindications. While you may decide to assume risk that you or your child might contract a vaccine-preventable illness, we cannot assume risk for our patients.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize the choice to vaccinate may be an emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to help you better understand that vaccinating according to the recommended schedule is the right thing to do. Should you have doubts please discuss these with your provider during your visit. Please be advised that delaying or “breaking up” vaccines to give one or two at a time goes against the expert recommendations and the medical advice of our providers, and can put your child at risk for serious illness and/or death.

It is our expectation that all of our patients be up-to-date with the infant/toddler vaccinations by two years of age. We also expect that all of our patients should have their recommended childhood vaccinations by six years of age. Finally, all adolescent and young adult vaccinations should be administered in accordance with the current CDC and AAP schedule recommendations.

If despite all of our efforts you decide to decline or refuse vaccines, we ask that you find another practice who shares the same views.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Thank you for your time in reading this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have with any of us.

Sincerely,

Providers of South River Pediatrics