

VACCINE POLICY

Thank you for the privilege of participating with you in furthering your child's healthy development. Our relationship with you will be founded on communication and mutual respect. For our part, we will always endeavor to recommend medical care that is evidence-based and meets the standard of our profession. We appreciate that you trust our advice regarding your child's continued well-being.

CAHS takes seriously as well the need to provide a safe environment for all who enter our office. Small infants, individuals receiving cancer drugs and the elderly are examples of those who are particularly susceptible to harm and even death should they be exposed to illnesses such as the ones for which we depend on vaccines for protection. Unfortunately, these same illnesses are still present in the community or are only a plane flight away.

Sadly, our society is plagued by misinformation regarding illness and vaccines. There are individuals and websites who would have parents believe that vaccines are unsafe and untested or may be the cause of other disease states such as autism. Such statements are completely false and have been disproven repeatedly. Some have argued that a small child's immune system could be "overwhelmed" by multiple immunizations at once, when in reality, today's vaccines provide protection with about 1/10th the amount of immune material as a child would be exposed with a common cold or upper respiratory infection. Therefore, there is never any reason to space out the administration of vaccines beyond the intervals recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It is in this spirit that we have developed the following policy as a requirement for all children we care for who are eligible for vaccines:

All children in our care must be fully immunized according to the guidelines and schedule of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Centers for Disease Control. Any parent who wishes to withhold immunizations or follow a non-recommended schedule will be required to seek medical care for their child elsewhere.

We are parents as well and understand the fervent wish to protect our children from harm and make the best and most informed decisions for their care. There is nothing more precious to us than our kids. So, we would like to maintain a dialogue with those parents who are hesitant about any aspect of immunizing their child. We understand the confusion. However, we cannot risk the well-being of those who enter our office by creating the possibility of exposure to vaccine-preventable disease.

We welcome any questions about this policy. For any parent who remains hesitant, please reach out so that we may have a chance to resolve your questions to your satisfaction. We know you want the best for your child, as do we.