



Statement on vaccines

We, as a Pediatric practice, believe that the administration of childhood vaccines is one of the most important services we offer. All vaccines given here have been strongly endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control, The American College of Immunization Practices and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Prevention of disease is paramount in promoting the health and while being of our patients.

We understand there is a plethora of information regarding vaccines available to the general public, via the Internet, social media and word-of-mouth, and that some of this information is false, often disguised as 'scientific'. It is often virtually impossible for the layperson to distinguish between valid studies and those that are questionable or even fraudulent. A large part of Physician's training is devoted to enabling us to determine which studies are valid and which are not. Given that, we ask that you put some degree of trust in us.

Vaccines are safe and effective. That being said, no vaccine is perfect. In fact, whether one ingests a food, takes a medication, or receives a vaccine, there is always a risk/benefit determination to be made. In case of vaccines there is a far greater risk of a negative outcome from not being immunized and contracting vaccine-preventable disease, then there is from the vaccine itself. Side effects from vaccines are always possible and those are discussed at each well child visit in this practice. The fact is that the great majorities of the side effects are relatively minor, and can be mitigated by simple comfort measures.

Our policy at Opal Court Pediatrics is that all children be fully vaccinated by the age of two years. "Alternative Vaccine Schedules" have come to the forefront over the last several years. We believe, through interpretation of valid studies, that none has any benefit over the standard schedule employed by this practice. However, we will work with parents who would prefer an alternative schedule, as long as their child is caught up by age 2 years.

Our purpose is to educate, advise, and encourage parents to vaccinate their children. However, parents are the ones to make the decision to vaccinate or not, and we respect that right. If parents intend not to vaccinate, we ask that they find another Physician with whom they can work. We feel that we cannot be complicit in endangering the health of our other patients and the public at large.