

Lewis Pediatrics' Vaccine Policy

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We would be devastated if one of our patients suffered serious consequences of an illness that could have been prevented by a routine vaccine. 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. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of decades of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

We believe in the safety of our vaccines. All available literature, evidence, and current studies show that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Although we use thimerosal-free vaccines, 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 recognize that there has always been and will likely always be misinformation surrounding vaccination. 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 they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases.

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 risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as pediatricians.

We therefore firmly believe, and require at our practice, that all children and young adults receive the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. **We reserve the right to dismiss any family from the practice who chooses to not adhere to the recommended/required vaccine schedule.**

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do both for those children and for the infants at our office who are too young to be immunized. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with us.

Sincerely,

Edward D Lewis, MD, FAAP
Sophia L O'Rourke, MD, FAAP