

## VACCINE POLICY

We strongly believe that vaccinating children and young adults is the single most important intervention we can perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule is the result of decades of scientific study on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chicken pox, or have known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such successes can make us complacent about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

At Olney Pediatrics, we strongly believe that all patients in our practice should be vaccinated according to the annually published Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations. **Unless there is a valid medical exemption, all patients in our practice must receive all immunizations required by the state of Maryland for school attendance**, according to the schedule of doses published annually by the CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/index.html>).

If you refuse to vaccinate your child, we will ask that you find another healthcare provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers nor would we recommend any such physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you put your child and others at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability, and death.

As healthcare 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. However, we recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents/caregivers. We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss this with your health care provider in advance of your visit.

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