



Immunization Policy

Immunizations are one of the most important medical breakthroughs of the last century. Vaccines are important for your child. Vaccines save lives.

Commonwealth Pediatrics immunizes patients according to the schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Parents who choose not to vaccinate their children are not a good fit for our practice and will be asked to leave.

The AAP and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) both recommend administering multiple immunizations at each visit and not splitting or delaying vaccines. Multiple shots and combination vaccines are utilized for three reasons:

1. To provide broad protection to children when they are young and most vulnerable
2. To minimize the absolute number of shots needed
3. To minimize the number of office visits, thereby reducing both the risk of exposure to illness and the risk of vaccines being given too early or too late

Giving multiple immunizations at one visit has been studied extensively and determined to be safe. There is no negative effect on the normal childhood immune system. There is no medical benefit to splitting shots (and there is increased potential harm by doing so).

Commonwealth Pediatrics strongly supports these recommendations. Splitting vaccines increases risk to the undervaccinated child. In addition, it poses a risk to other children in our practice who may come into contact with your child.

Parents who request alternate vaccine schedules will be asked to sign a waiver stating that they are aware of the potential risks in doing so. These include, but are not limited to, decreased immunity to potential life-threatening infections and the lack of medical benefit from splitting shots. In addition, the parents will be asked to provide (in writing) their proposed vaccine schedule for provider approval.

Families who fail to follow the agreed-upon alternate schedule, and/or parents unwilling to sign the waiver, will be asked to leave our practice.

We are always happy to answer any and all questions you may have about vaccines in a respectful and honest manner. For more information about vaccines, please visit the following websites:

vaccine.chop.edu

shotbysshot.org

vaccinateyourfamily.org