

CARRBORO PEDIATRICS & INTERNAL MEDICINE

Vaccine Position Statement

At Carrboro Pediatrics & Internal Medicine:

- We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.
- We firmly believe in the safety of vaccines.
- We feel strongly that all infants, children, and adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by our trusted medical society guidelines, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Practice, and the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles, or even chicken pox, or known a friend or family member whose child was permanently disabled or died from one of these diseases. Such success may make people question the importance of vaccines. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we are even having these discussions today. Unfortunately, there are more parents/guardians who have recently experienced the consequences of not vaccinating their children, sometimes with tragic results.

While we recognize and respect the parents'/guardians' role as the ultimate decision maker for their child's health care, we believe strongly that we are obligated to deliver the best and safest health care possible for our patients and our community. These vaccine-preventable diseases can and do cause severe illness, including seizures, brain damage, permanent developmental disabilities, paralysis, and even death.

We at Carrboro Pediatrics & Internal Medicine are dedicated to providing the best care that we can for our patients. We feel that to do this effectively, we must enter into a partnership based on mutual trust with parents/guardians of our patients so that together, we can achieve this goal. Recently, there has been a trend of misinformation and resulting fear of vaccine side effects by well-meaning parents. The recommended vaccines and their given schedules are the result of years of scientific study and data on millions of children. This body of research overwhelmingly shows that vaccines are safe and effective in protecting our children and communities from serious diseases.

Vaccinating infants, children, and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and one of the most important health interventions a parent/guardian can do on behalf of their children. We want all of our patients to benefit from this modern, life-saving tool and are happy to discuss this further, working together to ensure the most optimal health for your child. It is the position of Carrboro Pediatrics & Internal Medicine to vaccinate all of its patient population, as many families are legitimately concerned that unvaccinated persons put their families at risk. If you choose not to vaccinate to include all of the shots required by the NC Department of Health for kindergarten entry and subsequent school-required shots, we require that you establish care with another medical home.

<https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs/epidemiology/immunization/schools/k-12>