

MIDDLETOWN PEDIATRICS VACCINE POLICY

The providers at Middletown Pediatrics welcome you and your child to our practice. You should know that we are, and always have been, strong advocates for disease prevention through vaccinations. The impact on childhood morbidity and mortality cannot be emphasized enough.

We currently vaccinate against a larger number of illness than we ever have. However, vaccines through the years have been modified to the point where we actually give fewer surface antigens to which immunity is made than we did a dozen years ago. Concerns about possible side effects have been researched. The medical community is quite diligent in monitoring for problems as well as pro-actively doing studies to review their safety and benefit.

Specific concerns regarding number of shots given at once, the MMR vaccine, or the preservative thimerosal (mercury) have been extensively investigated. No evidence exists that implicates any of these in long term problems such as autism. Thimerosal has not been in any routine immunizations since 2001. The MMR was officially exonerated from any link to autism in 2001 and thimerosal was officially exonerated in 2004.

It is our belief here at Middletown Pediatrics that vaccinating your child against such devastating illness is the single greatest benefit that medicine offers. We do however recognize that some parents have concerns regarding the number of vaccines given at one time. For these families, we do offer an alternative vaccine schedule which does spread out the vaccines. This does require extra office visits to monitor that the proper shots are given at the proper times and at the proper intervals.

Vaccines are critical to the health and safety of your children and to everyone around them. For this reason, Middletown Pediatrics will NOT ACCEPT any unimmunized children into our practice and WILL NOT consider vaccine refusal of any state required vaccine as an extension of our alternate vaccine policy. We will provide you with all VIS sheets for every vaccine your child gets on the day that they are given. Which vaccines are utilized in our office is at the sole discretion of Middletown Pediatrics and we will not special order any vaccines to satisfy any individual request. Middletown Pediatrics keeps diligent records on all immunizations given at our office. However, it is unreasonable to burden our providers and staff with requests for excessive information such as manufacturers, lot numbers, shipping dates, etc. as this interferes with our time for patient care.

We realize that parents have a choice when it comes to choosing the pediatric care that best fits their needs. We also desire a mutually satisfactory doctor-patient-parent relationship based on respect and trust. We understand that sometimes there are philosophical differences, either from your perspective or ours, mandating that care be given elsewhere. Should you decide against vaccination altogether, we respectfully wish you and your family the best of luck in your personal journey to find a practice that meets your needs.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Name _____