

PAMPA VACCINE STATEMENT

We believe very strongly that vaccination with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and adults. Therefore, we endorse the following statement from the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"The risks of the diseases that vaccines prevent are far greater than the unproven concerns about their safety. We encourage all parents to ensure their children's health by immunizing them on time.

Routine childhood vaccination produced a tremendous decline in serious infections. Lives have been saved and suffering prevented. Before a vaccine was available, nearly everyone developed measles during childhood. Each year in the U.S., about 50,000 were hospitalized, 1,000 cases of permanent brain damage and 500 deaths occurred. Polio paralyzed 20,000 people per year, causing 1,000 deaths. Vaccines do a wonderful job of preventing illness, complications, and saving lives.

Immunizations are safe. Vaccines are extensively studied to show that they provide protection. Part of this research includes testing new vaccines along with existing vaccines that are given at the same time. The new vaccine must show that it does not decrease the effectiveness of the other vaccines and does not result in higher reactions. Vaccine safety is monitored by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Parents who delay or decline vaccination put their children and others at risk. Outbreaks of the measles in 2008 demonstrate that the measles is just a plane flight away from countries where vaccine rates are low. 63 of the 64 U.S. cases of measles in 2008 occurred in unvaccinated people.

The vaccine schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the CDC gives vaccines when they are most effective. Multiple vaccine doses over time are necessary to provide adequate protection. Delaying vaccines puts children and the community at unnecessary risk. Giving the vaccines on the recommended schedule ensures that children have immunity at the age when they are most susceptible to a preventable disease. When immunizations are delayed, we lose the opportunity to prevent diseases that occur in infancy and early childhood.

Some people are concerned about mercury preservatives in vaccines. **There has never been any scientific evidence that showed a child has been harmed by thimerosal, the mercury-based preservative that had been used in vaccines in the past.** Major studies in Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and the United States have shown no association between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism. Other studies provide evidence that MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine **does** not cause autism. A recent study in California looked at cases of autism and other brain disorders. They compared the diagnosis of autism prior to 2001 (the year thimerosal was removed from vaccines, except some influenza vaccines) with the rate of diagnosis after 2001. If thimerosal in vaccines caused autism, the rate should have fallen after the preservative was removed. The study showed that the rate increased.

Parents are faced with a seemingly overwhelming amount of information about vaccines and possible side effects. We encourage them look for sources that are based on scientific evidence rather than anecdote and emotion. A list of useful internet sites is provided for parents who desire more information.

www.cdc.gov/vaccines (CDC)

www.immunize.org (Immunization Action Coalition)

www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia)

If you have any additional questions or concerns about vaccines, please discuss them with your provider at your next office visit.

PAMPA VACCINE STATEMENT

Protecting your children, our children and the community by giving the currently available vaccines is one of the most important medical interventions we provide to children. The risks of the diseases are far greater than the risks of the vaccines themselves. Therefore, we encourage all parents to ensure their children's health by immunizing them on time.

Immunizations are safe. The recommended vaccines and the recommended schedule are the results of over a century of research. Vaccine safety is confirmed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended vaccine schedule gives vaccines when they are most effective. Multiple vaccine doses over time are necessary to provide the best protection against disease. Delaying vaccines puts children and the community at unnecessary risk. Giving the vaccines on the recommended schedule ensures that children have immunity when they are most susceptible to preventable diseases.

Parents are faced with an overwhelming amount of information about vaccines and their possible side effects. We encourage them to look for sources not based on the anecdote and emotion but sources based on scientific evidence, such as the internet sites listed below.

www.immunize.org (Immunization Action Coalition)

www.cdc.gov/vaccines (CDC website)

Thank you for your time in reading this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us. You will have the opportunity to discuss any questions you have about vaccinations with your provider at all future visits.

The Providers of PAMPA

I have read and understand the above PAMPA vaccine statement. I understand that if I refuse recommended vaccines, or fail to keep my child (children) up to date with the AAP/CDC recommended schedule, that I may be asked to seek pediatric medical care elsewhere.

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____