



2/12/25

Elmwood Pediatric Group Vaccine Policy

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of decades of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians. We believe in the safety of our vaccines. All available literature, evidence, and current studies show that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. We firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. We recognize that there has always been and will likely always be misinformation surrounding vaccination. The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we are even discussing whether they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Elmwood Pediatric Group. **We therefore firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics.**

At Elmwood Pediatrics, it is required that all infants start a vaccination schedule by 2 months of age. While we strongly encourage following the AAP recommended vaccine schedule, if you choose to delay any vaccines then we require a good faith effort to schedule extra visits at regular intervals (which may result in extra costs) to complete the required vaccines within a reasonable time frame.

We require that all patients complete the full vaccine series which are mandatory for daycare by 18 months of age.

This includes DTaP, Polio, Hep B, Hib, Pneumococcal, MMR and Varicella vaccines.

We also require that all patients complete the vaccines mandatory for entrance into New York State public schools by age 5.

This includes booster doses of DTaP, Polio, MMR and Varicella.

We would welcome discussing vaccines and our policy with you to address any questions or concerns you may have. If however, you feel that you are unable to adhere to our vaccine policy, then we will request that you transfer care to a different practice out of concern for the health of all our patients and families.