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**Robeson Pediatrics, PA**

**Vaccination Policy**

Our practice has experienced a marked increase in parents requesting to delay or decline vaccinations. This may be impart due to the result of appearances by celebrities claiming that vaccines harmed their children in some way. The physicians and staff of Robeson Pediatrics, PA firmly believe in the importance of vaccinations and the part they play in preventative medicine. Our belief in their value is based on the most current literature, studies, and medical evidence. All of our vaccines are thimerosal-free, even though this preservative has been found to be safe and not implicated in the development of autism.

We wholly endorse the schedule set for vaccinations by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Disease Control. While we recognize and respect the parental role as the ultimate decision make for their child’s healthcare, we strongly believe that we are obligated to deliver the safest and best healthcare possible for our patients and our community. Professionally, we feel uncomfortable caring for children who will not receive vaccinations in a timely manner. These preventable diseases can and do cause severe illness, brain damage, and death. We live in a diverse community with an abundance of national and international travel. Due to the transient nature of our community, we feel that the risks of contracting these diseases are here and real.

We are making you aware of vaccination information through vaccine education, not to scare or coerce you. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to educate you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with your provider in advance of your visit. Please be advised that delaying or “breaking up vaccines” to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, can put your child at risk for serious illness (even death), and goes against our medical advice at Robeson Pediatrics, PA. Such additional visits will require additional co-pays on your part, as well as, adding to the emotional stress of your child.

**If you have decided that you will not give your child any of the childhood vaccines, then clearly your philosophy and ours do not match and you should find a pediatric practice that is more in line with your beliefs and values.** We do not keep a list of such providers, nor would we recommend any such physician.

Unfortunately, there seems to be an increasing frequency of parents refusing all vaccinations nationally. This places children and communities in unnecessary and potentially severe risk, and we feel obligated to do everything we can to reduce the number of people needlessly exposed. Unvaccinated children with fevers undergo more testing such as blood draws and spinal taps to diagnose diseases that could be easily prevented. Unvaccinated children also receive more antibiotics to treat potentially life-threatening diseases. It is our hope that all families will obtain all of the recommended immunizations. Thank you for your time and understanding in reading this policy. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any of our providers.