



**Cedar Park Pediatric
& Family Medicine**
Complete Medical Care for your Family



In an effort to reemphasize our vaccine policy, please note, for families with unvaccinated children, our physicians will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you have regarding the CDC and school vaccination schedule. Due to our strong commitment and belief in the importance of vaccines, we are not a good fit for families who are unwilling to commit to this schedule.

Delaying or “breaking up vaccines” to give one or two at a visit over a longer period of time goes against expert recommendations, increases the chance for errors and can put your child at risk for serious illness (even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Cedar Park Pediatrics & Family Medicine. The vaccines recommended for your child are important to give as soon as possible as they are the most susceptible to these diseases when they are young.

Cedar Park Pediatric and Family Medicine will continue to accept new pediatric patients and retain established pediatric patients who are unable to vaccinate due to compromised immune systems, or have documented adverse reactions to vaccines.

Cedar Park Pediatric & Family Medicine Vaccine Statement

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.

We firmly believe that all children and adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, 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.



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We firmly believe that vaccinating children and adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as a health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their associated schedule are based on the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathered from millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientist and physicians.

These things being said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination.

Indeed, Benjamin Franklin, persuaded by his brother, was opposed to smallpox vaccine until scientific data convinced him otherwise. Tragically, he had delayed inoculating his favorite son Franky, who contracted smallpox and died at age 4, leaving Ben with a lifetime of guilt and remorse. Quoting Mr. Franklin's autobiography:

In 1736, I lost one of my sons, a fine boy of four years old, by the smallpox...I long regretted bitterly, and still regret that I had not given it to him by inoculation. This I mention for the sake of parents who omit that operation, on the supposition that they should never forgive themselves if a child died under it, my example showing that the regret may be the same either way, and that, therefore, the safer should be chosen.

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 or not 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. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

Over the past several years, many people in Europe have chosen not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine after publication of an unfounded suspicion (later retracted) that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of under immunization, there have been small outbreaks of measles and several deaths from complications of measles in Europe over the past several years.



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More recently, the largest outbreak of the measles virus in the United States in over 20 years was traced back to Disneyland in California. Many who fell ill in the Disneyland episode were not immunized against measles. Some cited personal reasons for refusing shots, and others were too young to get the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We'll do everything we can to help you understand why vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. **Should you have doubts, please discuss them with your physician prior to your visit.**

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating on the schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for both children and adults. **We believe so strongly in this concept, that all of our physicians and their children are fully immunized.**

Thank you for your time in reading this policy, please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

Sincerely,

The Providers at Cedar Park Pediatrics and Family Medicine