



## NAP Guidelines Regarding Vaccinations

The health and well-being of our patients is the most important objective for all of the providers at NAP. The prevention of diseases is a top priority in obtaining that objective. The single greatest public health achievement over the last century has been the use of vaccines to prevent life-threatening illnesses in the children we serve. Vaccines have saved millions of lives and have gone through rigorous testing to assure their safety. We strongly urge that your child receive all the vaccines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. When a new vaccine is recommended, we thoroughly study literature on the vaccine to determine independently what we feel is the truth about the safety and the efficacy of each vaccine.

This standard vaccine schedule we recommend has proven to be effective and safe. We strongly recommend not delaying or altering the standard schedule for giving your child her or his vaccines. We understand that there might be unusual circumstances such as illness that might temporarily delay giving a vaccine. In these circumstances we recommend that you discuss with your provider a plan for giving your child the standard vaccines as soon as the unusual circumstance is resolved.

There have been a number of parents who have delayed or refused to vaccinate their children for reasons of fear. These decisions, based on fear, have been spurred by many factors including unsubstantiated and fraudulent data claiming that vaccines are not safe, stories that one might hear on social media, and even the false sense of security that these diseases are not as rampant as they used to be simply because of the huge success of vaccines in eliminating many diseases. Unfortunately as more children are not vaccinated, these dreadful diseases are likely to return and increase in frequency. Because of this concern some practices have decided to discharge patients from their practice if they do not get vaccinations as recommended. Currently, NAP does not have this policy because we would like to work with our families, explain the well substantiated reasons for giving and for the safety of vaccinations, and maintain the respectful relationship we have with our patients and families. If we find our patients in the midst of a situation where vaccination rates have led to an even greater health threat, we may need to change this policy in order to better protect the children and families at NAP. As always we encourage you to discuss your questions and concerns with your provider.

Thank you,

The Providers at NAP