

Vaccine Policy

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

We fully support the current vaccine schedule published by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP). These schedules are the result of years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

We fully believe, based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Furthermore, we believe that the thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or worsen autism.

We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can support as parents/caregivers.

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 about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

After the 1998 publication of an unfounded accusation (later retracted) that MMR vaccine caused autism, many people in Europe chose not to vaccinate their children. As a result of under-immunization, there were large outbreaks of measles, with several deaths from complications of the disease. In 2010 there were more than 3,000 cases of whooping cough in California, with nine deaths in children less than 6 months of age. Again, many of those who contracted the illness (and then passed it on to the infants, who were too young to have been fully vaccinated) had made a conscious decision not to vaccinate.

The United States experienced a record number of measles cases during 2019, with 1,282 in 31 states reported to [CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases](#) (NCIRD). This is the greatest number of cases since measles elimination was documented in the U.S. in 2000.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. Even delaying or “breaking up the vaccines” to give one or two at a time over additional visits goes against expert recommendations, is not supported by any scientific data, can lead to unnecessary delays and errors, and can put your child, other children, and adults at risk for serious illness (or even death). It is against our medical advice as professionals here at Ball Pediatrics.

We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to make you feel comfortable and confident about vaccinating your children.

BALL PEDIATRICS

We are more than willing to discuss any questions you may have about vaccines as we feel it is our duty to educate parents and families about the importance and safety of vaccines as well as dispelling misinformation that has been on the rise.

Unless we deem it medically necessary to alter the schedule, **all** patients in the practice are **required** to receive all the recommended doses of vaccines according to schedule. If you do not wish to follow our educated recommendations and choose not to vaccinate, we recommend that you find another office who shares your views.

We look forward to continuing to provide the best possible care for your children and all of our patients and families.