

## VACCINE POLICY STATEMENT

Dear Desert Sun Pediatrics Families:

Desert Sun Pediatrics strongly believes in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious and life-threatening illnesses and certain types of cancers. We firmly believe that all infants, children, and young adults receive all recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Disease Control, and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Vaccinating children against a multitude of infectious agents is one of the most important health interventions of the 20th century. It may also be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers and you can perform as parents and caregivers. The recommended vaccines and the vaccine schedule are results of years of scientific study and extensive medical research by experts in many fields of medicine, including immunology and public health. Desert Sun Pediatrics fully believes based on all the available data, scientific literature, current studies, and evidence-based medicine, that vaccines are safe and don't cause autism or developmental disabilities.

Not vaccinating your child or vaccinating your child according to your personal "alternative" vaccine schedule is putting your child and other children at risk. There are no studies that exist that demonstrate "alternative" schedules or "spacing out vaccinations" to be safer. Children who are not vaccinated or are on delayed schedules are at a much higher risk of catching vaccine preventable diseases and may be contagious before they show symptoms. This puts everyone, but especially infants and immunocompromised patients/children, at risk.

We know you desire only the best for your child's health and wish to make safe and reasonable decisions. We also understand how difficult it must be to reconcile conflicting information you receive from family, friends, the media, social media, and other sources. As your child's health care provider, Desert Sun Pediatrics would never recommend immunizations for your child that we would not be willing to give our own children. We have administered hundreds of thousands of vaccines for many years and have never seen a significant vaccine reaction with any long-term negative effects.

As medical professionals and your trusted partner in the care of your children, we will be making the following changes regarding vaccinations starting March 2020:

-We will no longer accept **new patients from unestablished families** who are choosing not to vaccinate.

-New patients transferring to our practice who are under immunized, or on an "alternative schedule" need to schedule an appointment with a provider to discuss/initiate a "catch-up" immunization plan according to the current AAP recommended immunization catch-up schedule.

-If you are an established family and are on an “alternative schedule”, your child will need to be fully immunized by age 2.

-If you are already an established family at Desert Sun Pediatrics and choose not to vaccinate as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Center for Disease Control we will require you to sign a refusal to vaccinate form at each wellness exam, acknowledging the risks and that you have been counseled about them.

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand our new vaccine policy. It is our sincere hope that you continue to trust us to care for your children.

Sincerely,

Binita Patel, MD, FAAP  
Manny DeLucca, MD, FAAP  
Nancy Krasnow-Horlick, MD, FAAP  
Amy Rampley, DO, FAAP  
Stephanie Ostrus, PA  
Pat Shannon, PNP-BC