



Children's  
of Alabama

## MAYFAIR MEDICAL GROUP VACCINE PHILOSOPHY

The physicians and staff of Mayfair Medical Group are committed to the health care and safety of your child. Part of that commitment includes our recommendations for preventative health care, including vaccinations. We recommend that all children and young adults receive the routine vaccines according to the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Vaccinating children and young adults is one of the most important aspects of the health care we provide to your children. As a parent, choosing to immunize your children is one of the greatest protections you can offer them

We know of the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. Additionally, we have confidence in the safety record of vaccines. The recommended vaccines and schedules are the result of years of scientific research and study by our best scientists and physicians. In fact, we anticipate that ongoing research will continue to lead us toward even greater protection for children.

These things being said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination. 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 able to discuss whether they should be given. Because of vaccines, most parents have never seen a child suffer from polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox. Such success can make us complacent about vaccination. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, will lead to tragic results.

We are making you aware of these facts, not to scare or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be an emotional one for some parents. However, we believe that vaccinating children according to the recommended schedule is the right thing to do. Delaying or "breaking up" the vaccine schedule goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness and disability (or even death) and is against our medical advice. Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite our recommendations we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views.

As medical professionals, we feel strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is a vital aspect of the health care we provide for your family. Thank you for taking the time to read this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

Sincerely,

Judith Habeeb, MD  
Gretel Russell, MD  
Stacey Gilbert, MD  
Elizabeth Peters, MD

Kristin Mizerany, MD  
Christina Fettig, MD  
Jamie Powell, MD  
Nathan Owens, MD