



# Stepping Stones Pediatrics

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We are writing to you because your child/children is/are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and we need to inform you of our new vaccine policy.

The question whether to vaccinate one's child can sometimes be difficult for parents. Many opinions regarding vaccination can be found on the web and in the media. Some sites which purport to give the pros and cons of vaccination present reasons against vaccination which are flawed, half-true, or misleading, without correcting these misperceptions. Because of this, we have included a list of references which provide an evidence-based presentation of the scientific rationale behind the recommendations for vaccinating children. When one reviews the peer-reviewed scientific data (of which there is an abundance) on safety and effectiveness of vaccinating, there is a clear conclusion. Vaccines are safe, vaccines are effective, and vaccines save lives.

The standard of care in the medical community is that children should be vaccinated to protect their own health and the health of those around them. Because vaccination prevents many serious illnesses, it is a crucial tool for doctors and nurse practitioners to keep their patients healthy. Although rare adverse effects can occur with vaccination, the benefits of preventing diseases with serious life-threatening complications including lifelong disability and death outweigh risks of vaccination. There is an abundance of data demonstrating that vaccinations do not cause autism or developmental delays, that thimerosal and the other preservatives and additives in vaccines do not cause injury, and that giving multiple vaccinations at one visit is both safe and effective. True medical contraindications to vaccination are rare, and it is also important that we protect those children who are unable to be vaccinated by ensuring that those around them have been immunized.

At the end of the day, each parent must make the decision for their own child. We take our job as the caretakers for the health of our patients very seriously. As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that overwhelming data exists to support vaccinating according to the CDC schedule, that it is the right thing to do for all children and young adults, and we do not believe we are able to maintain a healthy therapeutic relationship with our families who disagree with this tenet of healthcare.

Therefore, if your child does not have a medical reason to not be vaccinated, and you choose to refuse vaccinations for your child, we ask you to find a different health care provider who shares your views.

We will continue to provide care for all patients fully immunized according to AAP and CDC guidelines by the age of 2 and per school requirements through the age of 11. We have attached a copy of this schedule. If you would like to immunize your child and have us continue to provide care for your child/children, we ask that you start vaccinating within 3 months of the receipt of this letter. Please contact us to set up a catch-up vaccination schedule. If you choose not to fully vaccinate, we will continue to provide care to your child/children for the next 60 days in order for you to have time to find another provider. A transfer of records document is included for you to give to your new provider.

A copy of this letter is on our website at [steppingstonespediatricsco.com](http://steppingstonespediatricsco.com) where you can more easily access the links in the reference list.



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Sarah Bryant, M.D.



Diana Hocker, P.N.P.

Vaccine references:

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Vaccine-Studies-Examine-the-Evidence.aspx>

<http://www.immunizeforgood.com/fact-or-fiction/benefits-vs.-risks>

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/339620/Myths-and-facts.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/339620/Myths-and-facts.pdf?ua=1)

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/straight-talk-about-vaccination/>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/An-Important-Immunization-Message-from-the-President-of-the-American-Academy-of-Pediatrics.aspx>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/default.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/misconceptions.htm>

<https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/vaccines>

<http://discovermagazine.com/2009/jun/06-why-does-vaccine-autism-controversy-live-on/>

<http://www.immune.org.nz/vaccines/vaccine-development/brief-history-vaccination>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/03/fake-news-spreads-faster-true-news-twitter-thanks-people-not-bots>