



## Vaccines

### Mission Statement

The Pediatricians at Summit Health, as well as the entire group as a whole, believe in the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. Vaccines are a major part of preventative healthcare to prevent serious illnesses and save lives.

We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Vaccines are the single most important health promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.

The recommended vaccines and their schedule of timing has been established through years of rigorous scientific study and continuous data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Because of the success of vaccines, many adults have never seen a child who died or was disabled due to polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles or any of the 16 vaccines-preventable diseases. This can make people complacent about life saving vaccines.

We encourage parents to vaccinate on time, every time. Delaying or “splitting” vaccines increase the risk of vaccine preventable diseases and may reduce the efficacy of vaccines.

We discuss each recommended vaccine at each well visit it is scheduled to be given. We welcome questions that foster understanding of vaccines and diseases prevented. If you should decline vaccine(s) at their scheduled timing, you will be asked to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” form. If you continue to choose not to vaccinate your child, we will ask you to choose another healthcare provider who shares your views.

As a group of medical professionals committed to delivering the best care possible. Summit Health firmly believes that vaccinating children and young adults on schedule with the currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do.