

## OUR VACCINE POLICY

Effective March 1, 2012, Brentwood Pediatrics, will implement a new policy on vaccination.

All available scientific evidence recommends vaccinating according to the schedule set forth by the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and ACIP. Not following this schedule can potentially harm your child and other children in our office by unnecessarily exposing them to vaccine-preventable disease. We have, therefore, adopted the following policy:

- We will no longer see families who choose not to vaccinate their children according to the recommended schedule\*
- We strongly discourage following "Alternative Vaccine Schedules"
- Patients who currently use such schedules will need to follow the recommended catch-up schedule\* should they continue to choose our doctors for their child's pediatrician.

Vaccines are one of the greatest advances in medicine. They have saved countless millions of lives and have prevented serious illnesses. All vaccines have been, and continue to be studied for potential harmful effects. In most cases, vaccines are developed and tested for at least a decade before being used routinely. No current available studies support the idea that vaccines cause harm. No data supports the use of schedules other than that set forth by the CDC, AAP and AAIP.

**Parents who choose not to have their children vaccinated according to the guidelines not only put their children at risk of getting sick, but also put other children at risk. As healthcare providers, it is our responsibility to protect as many children from disease as possible.**

Please feel free to discuss any questions that you have about this policy with your provider at any time.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Adams, MD  
Jean E. Birmingham, MD  
Joshua C. Smith, MD

\*Flu and HPV vaccines will remain optional as they are not state required, however, they are important vaccines and parents should discuss them fully with their doctor before declining them.

Revised 3/1/12