

Richmond Pediatric Associates (RPA) Vaccine Policy Statement

1. RPA firmly believes in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and save lives.
2. RPA firmly believes in the safety of vaccines.
3. RPA firmly believes that all children and young adults should receive all the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
4. RPA firmly believes, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
5. RPA firmly believes that the choice not to immunize is a choice to unnecessarily put your child in harm's way and to risk serious illness or death.
6. RPA acknowledges that many of the diseases that vaccines prevent are uncommon today, thanks to millions of parents who chose to vaccinate their children. We feel that taking advantage of this 'second hand immunity,' without vaccinating your own child is too risky. If enough parents make the decision not to vaccinate, these diseases will make a comeback, many already have.
7. RPA recognizes that the choice to vaccinate may be an emotional one for some parents. We know that there is a lot of misinformation circulating in the media and our community. RPA will do everything we can to dispel any myths you may have heard, and to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do.
8. RPA does not recommend delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" to give one or two at a time. An alternate schedule goes against expert recommendations, can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death), and goes against RPA medical advice.
9. RPA does not accept new patients who refuse immunizations. This is to protect our most vulnerable newborns and patients with compromised immune systems.
10. The RPA providers are parents as well as healthcare professionals and have immunized our own children. It is our goal to provide the same quality of medical care for your child as we provide for our own children.