



VACCINE POLICY

The effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives has been proven beyond any doubt. For this reason, all children and young adults should receive the vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Based on all available literature and current studies, vaccines do not cause autism, other developmental disabilities, or infertility. Thimerosal, a preservative that had been in vaccines for decades but is no longer in any vaccine we administer, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedules are the result of years of scientific study. Data has been gathered from millions of children by our brightest scientists and researchers.

The vaccine campaign is a victim of its own success. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox, nor have known a friend or family member whose child died or was injured by one of these diseases. We cannot allow such success to make us complacent, for this will only lead to tragic results.

Over the past several years, many people have chosen not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine after publication of an unfounded suspicion (later retracted) that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of under-immunization, there have been outbreaks of measles in the U.S. and other parts of the world requiring hospitalization of infants and quarantining of children. In Europe, there have been several deaths from complications of measles over the past several years. This is a potentially devastating disease. We need you to understand that by not vaccinating your child, you also put other children at risk for the disease if they are too young to be vaccinated. Immunocompromised children and adults are at risk for the disease as a result of their weakened immune systems.

We recognize that the choice may be an emotional one for some parents, but we believe that vaccinating according to the recommended schedule is the right thing to do for your child and the surrounding community. If you have concerns, please discuss these with us in advance of your visit. Please be advised that delaying or breaking up the vaccines to give one or two at a time goes against expert recommendations. This can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Litchfield County Pediatrics. Each vaccine given, is timed to give the most protection at a critical age to prevent the most devastating infections. Getting more than one shot at a time is not a huge physical stress. Their immune systems handle far greater challenges from everyday exposure to germs on shared toys, doorknobs, and the playroom floor.

As medical professionals and your trusted partners in the care of your children, we feel strongly that vaccinating on schedule with currently available vaccines is the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you have with any of the practitioners at LCP.

We are no longer accepting new patients who do not follow the CDC/AAP vaccine schedule. However, we value the relationships we have built with families over the years and will be continuing to provide care for established patients who do not fully vaccinate.