



Vaccinating Children Statement

At LaTouche Pediatrics, we believe that vaccinating children is one of the most important services that we offer. Simply put, vaccines prevent disease and save lives.

All of these vaccine-preventable illnesses are still present in the United States or other countries, and are often just a short plane ride away. We understand that parents may have reservations about certain vaccines, and our pediatricians and nurse practitioners will be happy to discuss those concerns with you. We encourage all parents to vaccinate their children according to the recommended schedule.

Immunizations benefit not only the immunized child, but also those around the child – in the family and the rest of the community. This is by a process called ‘herd immunity’, which reduces the ability of a disease to spread within the community. This helps protect those children and others who are too young or too ill to receive the vaccine. Parents may feel that the decision to immunize their child is a personal one and they should not be required to immunize their child if they choose not to. However, the decision not to immunize affects not just the health of an individual child, but the health of other children and adults too.

In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. However, delaying or “breaking up the vaccines” goes against expert medical recommendations, and can put your child at risk. Please realize that you may be required to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” document, which outlines the risks of vaccine delay, in the event of lengthy delays.

As your trusted health care providers, we feel as many other pediatric practices do - we have an important responsibility to protect our families and communities from vaccine preventable diseases. Please contact us if we can help answer your concerns.