

Dear FFP Families,

We have always been strong advocates for childhood vaccinations. The science is clear: vaccines are safe and effective. They have saved, and will continue to save, millions of lives every year. Many of the vaccine-preventable diseases which terrified our grandparents are rare today because of effective immunization programs. This creates a dangerous perception that vaccines are no longer necessary. Unfortunately, if enough people in the community don't vaccinate, the chance rises that these deadly diseases will return, as we have recently seen with measles, polio and pertussis outbreaks.

There are many children who are at particularly high risk if exposed to these diseases. These include those who have medical conditions that don't allow them to be immunized, those fighting diseases such as cancer or immune system defects, or children who are just too young to start immunizations. We respect a parent's right to guide their child's health care. However, we feel it is very important to reiterate that if you choose not to vaccinate your children, this decision also puts our most susceptible patients at risk. These vulnerable children are your family, friends, schoolmates, church members, teammates and loved ones.

Each of us has vaccinated our own children by the same schedule we ask our patients to follow. As experts in pediatric medicine and as parents, we vaccinate because it is the safest thing to do for our children and your children. The most successful way to protect your child is to give all the vaccines at the recommended intervals. Vaccines are proven safe, do not cause autism, and protect children from debilitating and deadly diseases.

The providers at Families First Pediatrics are determined to ensure the safety of all our patients, and we wholeheartedly recommend all the standard childhood vaccinations. As such, we strongly encourage you to choose these vaccinations for your children. If you ultimately choose not to immunize your child, you may find that a different practice is a better fit for you. If you choose to stay, we will still enthusiastically and compassionately care for you as we continue to advocate for immunizations.