

## Immunization Letter to Parents

In order to provide the most effective immunization program for our patients, we would like to share with our parents/guardians a brief description of our policy here at Capital Care Pediatrics Clifton Park. The recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) serve as the basis for our policy.

As providers entrusted with the care of your children, we take seriously our responsibility to protect and care for them. One area in which we are able to practice preventative medicine is through the proper and timely administration of recommended immunizations. In keeping with this philosophy, it is our policy to follow the immunization schedule recommended by these organizations.

The CDC suggests that it is critical to administer all vaccines at the appropriate designated intervals to children for whom no specific contraindication exists. This ensures the maximum efficacy of each immunization and the probability that a child will be fully immunized at the appropriate age.

As reported by the CDC, there is no evidence that administering combined immunizations (e.g., measles, mumps, and rubella) in separate doses is more advantageous. Rather, the child runs the risk of contracting the disease of the delayed components. *Numerous studies have been done which have clearly shown that there is **no link** between autism and the administration of the MMR vaccine.*

Risks and benefits are associated with all immunizations. Risks may range from a local area of redness or swelling at the injection site to a rare systemic reaction. Benefits include preventing a systemic illness from occurring, along with the complications specific to that illness, as well as the prevention and spread of a contagious illness throughout the community.

Our nurses are trained in the administration of all immunizations to children, and are well informed of all changes in the recommendations from the CDC and/or manufacturers as they occur.

A schedule of recommended immunizations from the CDC is published yearly and includes the appropriate ages for administration, as well as the recommended intervals between immunizations. **It is the policy of this office not to deviate from the recommended schedule in order to accommodate those who choose to create their own immunization schedule.**

Effective July 1, 2008 the administration of vaccines containing more than trace amounts of thimerosal to children less than three years of age and to women who know they are pregnant is prohibited, unless there is a shortage of thimerosal-free vaccine, or during an outbreak of disease when thimerosal-free vaccine is not available. In the few immunizations that contain a trace amount of thimerosal, which may be left after post-production thimerosal removal, there is no known adverse biological effect (according to the Institute for Vaccine Safety Thimerosal Table, updated 1/28/08).

It is the practice of this office to keep abreast of all published information regarding vaccines as it is reported by the CDC, AAP, ACIP, AMA and vaccine manufacturers.

### RESOURCE WEBSITES:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm> AND <http://www.vaccinesafety.edu>

<http://www.vaccinateyourbaby.org/> AND <http://www.aap.org>