

## **Statement on Vaccinations**

At Northwest Pediatric Care, we firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent severe illness and to save lives. We follow the recommended vaccine schedule published by the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which advises that all children and young adults receive all the recommended vaccines according to schedule. Vaccinating children and young adults is one of the most important health-promoting interventions we can perform as healthcare providers and that we can perform as parents and caregivers.

The recommended vaccines and their schedule result from years of scientific study and data gathered on millions of children by scientists, researchers, and physicians. Vaccines have successfully prevented polio, tetanus, bacterial meningitis, and rubella. Most of you will never know a child affected by polio due to the years of vaccinating our general population and protecting our families. We recognize that there is, and likely will always be, controversy surrounding vaccinations.

Further, we understand that every family's health choices are personal and reflect various beliefs and concerns. We are committed to providing compassionate, comprehensive care to all children, regardless of their vaccination status. Our practice respects parental authority and the right to make medical decisions for their children, including choosing to vaccinate. We are here to offer guidance, support, and the most current medical information to assist you in making the best choices for your child's health and well-being. Your child's health is our priority, and we welcome open discussions about vaccinations to help you make informed decisions that align with your family's values and our medical expertise. We are available to have a dialogue and to provide education.

We have your children's best health in mind, and we appreciate the opportunity to have this discussion and make sure we do our best to care for them in every way.