VACCINATION STATEMENT FOR TETON VALLEY HEALTH

**We firmly believe** in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

**We firmly believe** in the safety of our vaccines.

**We firmly believe** that all children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**We firmly believe,** based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

**We firmly believe** that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

**We firmly believe** that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and the vaccine schedule are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we are even discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of us have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial menin­gitis, or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family mem­ber whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating.

This said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We encourage you, should you have doubts to please discuss these with your healthcare provider in advance of your visit.

In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. **Please be advised, however, that delaying or altering our vaccine schedule in order to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Teton Valley Health.** Please realize that you will also be required to sign a “Refusal to Vaccinate” acknowledgement in the event of lengthy delays.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating your child on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do to protect all children and young adults. Thank you for taking the time to read this statement. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

Because we are committed to protecting the health of your children through vaccinations, we have a recommended immunization schedule starting at birth through 18 years of age. Sample schedule is below. Combination vaccines are used to reduce the amount if needle sticks per immunization sessions. (eg., DTaP, MMR, Vaxelis, Kinrix and Proquad)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Birth | Hepatitis B |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 month | Hepatitis B | DTaP | Polio | Prevnar | HIB | Rotavirus |
| 4 month | Hepatitis B | DTaP | Polio | Prevnar | HIB | Rotavirus |
| 6 month | Hepatitis B | DTaP | Polio | Prevnar | HIB | =>6mo Flu & Covid |
| 9 month | Catch-up |  |  |  |  |
| 12 month | Hepatitis A | Prevnar | Varicella | MMR |  |  |
| 15 month | DTaP | HIB |  |  |  |  |
| 18 month | Hepatitis A |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 year | Catch-up |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4-5 year | DTaP | Polio | Varicella | MMR |  |  |
| 11-12 year | Tdap | HPV | Menactra\* |  |  |  |
| 16-18 year | Menactra\* | Men B\* |  |  |  |  |

\*Meningococcal ACYW

\*Meningococcal B