



## **Omaha Childrens Clinic Immunization Statement**

Immunization is one of the most important preventative health investments a parent can make on their child's behalf. It has a proven record in preventing disease and is one of the most powerful tools that parents can employ in guarding the health of their child.

For this reason, the Providers at Omaha Childrens Clinic (OCC) fully support the current immunization schedule as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

OCC and the AAP support the right of parents to make informed decisions about the care of their children. With this in mind, we will not dismiss any child from our practice whose parent chooses not to comply with the AAP and CDC recommended vaccine schedule. We are committed to caring for all children in our community and do not believe dismissing a patient from our practice for this reason would be in alignment with this commitment.

With this in mind, it is of the utmost importance to state that the decision not to fully immunize places the burden of responsibility on parents to fully educate themselves regarding the risks of their decision. This process of education should include full awareness of the diseases that vaccines prevent, how those diseases are transmitted, and your child's specific risk of contracting them.

It is a reasonable statement that immunizations are pharmaceutical agents and as such there is always the possibility of reactions, side-effects, and other unforeseen outcomes. However, the outcomes of contracting the viruses, bacteria, and diseases that immunizations prevent can carry a much higher risk and cause permanent damage or even death. Vaccines can prevent millions of hospitalizations in addition to preventing hundreds of thousands of deaths for children born in the past 20 years.

We encourage you to speak to your child's provider about any questions or concerns you may have regarding immunizations and the disease processes immunizations can prevent. We are here to listen to your concerns and answer any questions you may have regarding the health and well-being of your child. For additional information, please review the resources on the next page.

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## Parent Resources from **HealthChildren.org**

1. General Information and Clinical Studies: <https://www.healthychildren.org/english/safety-prevention/immunizations/pages/default.aspx>
2. Information on recommended Immunization Schedule: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/An-Important-Immunization-Message-from-the-President-of-the-American-Academy-of-Pediatrics.aspx>
3. FAQ Format: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Child-Immunization-Schedule-Why-Is-It-Like-That.aspx>