

## TriHealth Physicians Practices

*Thank you for choosing the pediatricians at TriHealth Physicians Practices to care for your new baby. Our mission is to provide the highest quality medical care and preventative health measures for your child. One of the most important things that you, as parents, and we, as physicians, can do is to give your baby the recommended immunizations. Since this is so important, we feel that you should know our policy toward immunizations.*

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- 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 the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines and thimerosal do 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 health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathered 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, most of you have never seen a child with small pox, measles, mumps, polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox. Most of you have not known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent--even lazy--about vaccinating. Such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can lead only to tragic results.

Over the past several years, many people in Europe have chosen not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine after publication of an unfounded suspicion (later retracted) that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of under immunization, there have been outbreaks of measles and several deaths from complications of measles in Europe over the past several years.

*Closer to home, an unvaccinated boy from California traveled to Europe with his family early last year. He caught measles. When he returned home, he infected his two siblings, five unvaccinated schoolmates, as well as four infants in his doctor's waiting room. Also in 2008, eleven children contracted invasive Hib disease in Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Nine of these children had not been vaccinated. Three of them died.*

These diseases are REAL. We have seen and treated patients with them prior to vaccine development and we do not want to see these diseases again.

We are making you aware of these facts not to frighten you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. If you have questions about vaccines, **please discuss these with your health care provider.**

Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers nor would we recommend any such physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for illness, disability and even death. Please realize that by not vaccinating your child, you put other children, especially the very young or medically fragile, at risk as well.

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

I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
Parent's Name (please print)

parent of \_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Name Date of Birth (please print)

have read and understand the TriHealth Physicians Practices Vaccine Policy and I agree to the terms set forth by it.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## VACCINE SAFETY

These are the host of steps that a pharmacological company must go through before a vaccine becomes licensed for use. First the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reviews all phases in the development by the manufacturer. The branch of the FDA that deals with vaccines is the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER); <http://www.fda.gov/cber>.

There are then clinical studies that involve three phases and upon completion, the studies as well as the manufacturing plant are reviewed by committees of physicians, microbiologists, biostatisticians, chemists, scientists, consumer representatives and others.

Once the vaccine is licensed for use it is then subject to continued review by a number of groups and committees. The two main working groups are the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) and the Committee on Infectious Diseases (COID) of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition other groups that perform reviews in their specialty areas are:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)  
Department of Defense (DOD)  
Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)  
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
Indian Health Services (HIS)  
National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO)  
National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)  
American College Health Association (ACHA)  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)  
American College of Physicians (ACP)  
American Geriatrics Society (AGS)  
American's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)  
American Medical Association (AMA)  
American Osteopathic Association (AOA)  
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR)  
Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO)  
Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI)  
Department of Health-United Kingdom, Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC)  
Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)  
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)  
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)  
National Immunization Council and Child Health Program-Mexico (NIACCHO)  
National Medical Association (NMA)  
National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC)  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)  
Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM)  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)

## PARENT RESOURCES

[www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip)

[www.cdc.gov/nip/vacsafe/concerns/autism](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vacsafe/concerns/autism)

[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

[www.immunize.org/stories](http://www.immunize.org/stories)

CDC's National Immunization Program

Immunization Action Coalition

IAC's Unprotected People

FACTCINES "Facts on Vaccines" by Susan Shoshana Weisberg, MD, FCP, FAAP

## TriHealth Physicians Practices Vaccine Policy Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_,

Parent's Name (please print)

parent of \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Name

Date of Birth (please print)

have read and understand the Trihealth Physicians Vaccine Policy and I agree to the terms set forth by it.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date