



# Boston Children's Health Physicians New York & Connecticut

## Patient Vaccine Policy Effective 3/1/2020

Boston Children's Health Physicians, LLP ("BCHP") firmly believes in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and save lives. Vaccinating children and teens to prevent them from acquiring life-threatening diseases is one of the most important services we offer to our patients.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, data indicates that the current U.S. vaccine supply is the safest in history. All children and young adults should receive all recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The recommended vaccines and vaccine schedule are the result of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

Based on available medical evidence, vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disability.

While some people believe diseases such as polio, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella are rare and impossible to contract, vaccination programs are only effective when as many people as possible are immunized. Immunity in our country has dipped dangerously low in some areas putting people at risk of illness or death.

BCHP has an important responsibility to protect our families and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. We cannot accept the risk that unimmunized or under-immunized patients pose to other patients and their families in our practices, specifically infants who have not received their vaccinations or patients who have weakened immune systems due to serious illnesses.

Any concerns regarding vaccines can be discussed with your healthcare provider. Please be advised that delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" 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.

**Finally, unless special, valid medical justifications or other exemptions permitted by law for not vaccinating your child can be shown, we will ask you to find another health care provider if you refuse to vaccinate your child. Our recommendation is to contact your insurance carrier to find a new physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.**