



Thank you for choosing Rockcastle Pediatrics and Adolescents as your child's medical home. We believe there is nothing more important than keeping your children healthy and safe. We have dedicated our careers to caring for infants, children, and adolescents. The four pediatric providers of Rockcastle Pediatrics have over 50 years of combined pediatric expertise. Therefore,

1. **We firmly believe** in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.
2. **We firmly believe** in the safety of all of our vaccines.
3. **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.
4. **We firmly believe** that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disorders.
5. **We firmly believe** that vaccinating children and young adults is our job as providers and is the single most important health-promoting intervention we can do to keep children healthy.

Because we are committed to protecting the health of your children through vaccination, we **require** all of our patients to be vaccinated. Infants will receive all age-appropriate recommended vaccines by two years of age. Children will receive additional recommended booster doses by the time they are seven years old, and will be given recommended 11–12-year preteen vaccinations by the time they are 13 years old. We will complete 16-year teen vaccinations before each child's 17th birthday. While we highly recommend a yearly flu shot for all children over 6 months, and the HPV vaccine at age 11, this is not required by our office. Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another healthcare 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 life-threatening illness and disability, and even death. 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.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare 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 and should you have doubts, please discuss these with your healthcare provider. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. Please be advised, however, 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 (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at RockPeds.

By signing below, I understand the above information.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date

Callie Shaffer, M.D.
Courtney Browning, APRN



Sarah Oliver, MD
Megan Taylor Pittman, APRN