Borron Family Medicine's Vaccine Policy Statement

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We advise 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 are safe and do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. All scientific evidence says 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 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 gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians. These things being said, we recognize that there has always been and will likely always be controversy surrounding vaccination.

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 you 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. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead 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 small outbreaks of measles and several
deaths from complications of measles in Europe over the past several years. Furthermore, by not
vaccinating your child you are taking selfish advantage of thousands of others who do vaccinate their
children, which decreases the likelihood that your child will contract one of these diseases.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the
importance of vaccinating your child. Everyone who works here is a parent and we have had to make the
decision to vaccinate our children. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some
parents. We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the
right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with your health care 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 “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. Such additional visits
will require additional co-pays on your part. Furthermore, please realize that you will be required to sign a
“Refusal to Vaccinate” acknowledgement in the event of lengthy delays. 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 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.