



## Why Vaccinate?

Vaccines save lives and protect against the spread of disease. If you decide not to immunize your child, you put your child at risk. Your child could catch a disease that is dangerous or deadly. Getting vaccinated is much better than getting the disease.

Your pediatrician knows that you care about your child's health and safety. That's why you need to get all the scientific facts from a medical professional you can trust before making any decisions based on stories you may have seen or heard on TV, the Internet, or from other parents. Your pediatrician cares about your child too and wants you to know that...

- **Vaccines work.** They have kept children healthy and have saved millions of lives for more than 50 years. Most childhood vaccines are 90% to 99% effective in preventing disease. And if a vaccinated child does get the disease, the symptoms are usually less serious than in a child who hasn't been vaccinated. There may be mild side effects, like swelling where the shot was given, but they do not last long. And it is rare for side effects to be serious.
- **Vaccines are safe.** All vaccines must be tested by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA will not let a vaccine be given unless it has been proven to be safe and to work well in children. The data get reviewed again by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians before a vaccine is officially recommended to be given to children. Also, the FDA monitors where and how vaccines are made. The places where vaccines are made must be licensed. They are regularly inspected and each vaccine lot is safety-tested.
- **Vaccines are necessary.** Your pediatrician believes that your children should receive all recommended childhood vaccines. In the United States vaccines have protected children and continue to protect children from many diseases. However, in many parts of the world many vaccine-preventable diseases are still common. Since diseases may be brought into the United States by Americans who travel abroad or from people visiting areas with current disease outbreaks it's important that your children are vaccinated.

### From your doctor

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## **PRACTICE LOGO**

The Physicians and Staff at BGB Pediatrics want to emphasize the importance of vaccines. Our local outbreaks of Pertussis (whooping cough) and the related illnesses and death could have been prevented if the children had been vaccinated. If your family has chosen to delay or refuse vaccines, you are putting the health and well-being of your children at risk. Please consider the facts listed above.

If we can provide you with any additional information or support please call us at 123-456-7890. If you want to learn more go to the following Web sites: American Academy of Pediatrics ([www.aap.org/immunization](http://www.aap.org/immunization)) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)).

We also ask for your help to spread the word that vaccines are safe and save lives. Please forward this e-mail to all your local contacts and national contacts.

Thanks,

*Dr. Brown, Dr. Green, and Dr. Blue.*

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