

# Vaccine Statement

**We believe** in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

**We believe** in the safety of our vaccines.

**We believe** that all children should receive vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**We believe**, based on scientific evidence, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

This said, we recognize that there has always been some controversy surrounding vaccination. Indeed Benjamin Franklin was opposed to smallpox vaccine until scientific data convinced him otherwise. Tragically, he had delayed inoculating his son, Franky. The boy contracted smallpox and died at the age of 4.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. Because of vaccines, many have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox. Such success can make us forget why vaccines are so important.

After publication of an unfounded accusation (later retracted) that MMR vaccine caused autism in 1998, many Europeans chose not to vaccinate their children. As a result, Europe experienced large outbreaks of measles, with several deaths from disease complications. In 2012, there were more than 48,000 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) in the United States, resulting in 22 deaths. In 2015, there was a measles outbreak in the California Disneyland location involving 147 cases.

Choosing not to vaccinate puts all children at risk including those who are too young or too ill to receive vaccines. Our pediatricians want to give you the facts and answer your questions. We recognize that the choice to vaccinate may be a difficult one for some parents. However, we have a responsibility to the other children in our offices and in our community. We will not condone prolonged refusal to vaccinate. In addition, parents who continue to refuse may be dismissed from the practice.

As mothers and fathers, we vaccinate our own children. As medical professionals who genuinely care about the health of all children, we feel very strongly that vaccinating your child on schedule is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

The healthcare providers of Our Lady of the Lake Children's Health

*Adapted from the Immunization Action Coalition [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)*

Our team is ready to answer any additional questions you may have regarding wellness checks and vaccines. Call (225) 374-HEAL or visit [OLOLChildrens.org](http://OLOLChildrens.org) today.



OUR LADY OF THE LAKE  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH

[OLOLChildrens.org](http://OLOLChildrens.org) / (225) 374-4325