

# Refusal to Vaccinate

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

My child's doctor/nurse, \_\_\_\_\_, has advised me that my child (named above) should receive the following vaccines:

Recommended	Declined
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (DTaP or Tdap) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diphtheria tetanus (DT or Td) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pneumococcal conjugate or polysaccharide vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Inactivated poliovirus (IPV) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Influenza (flu) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Meningococcal conjugate or polysaccharide vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rotavirus vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

- That some vaccine-preventable diseases are common in other countries and that my unvaccinated child could easily get one of these diseases while traveling or from a traveler.
- If my child does not receive the vaccine(s) according to the medically accepted schedule, the consequences may include
  - Contracting the illness the vaccine is designed to prevent (the outcomes of these illnesses may include one or more of the following: certain types of cancer, pneumonia, illness requiring hospitalization, death, brain damage, paralysis, meningitis, seizures, and deafness; other severe and permanent effects from these vaccine-preventable diseases are possible as well).
  - Transmitting the disease to others (including those too young to be vaccinated or those with immune problems), possibly requiring my child to stay out of child care or school and requiring someone to miss work to stay home with my child during disease outbreaks.
- My child's doctor and the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention all strongly recommend that the vaccine(s) be given according to recommendations.

Nevertheless, I have decided at this time to decline or defer the vaccine(s) recommended for my child, as indicated above, by checking the appropriate box under the column titled "Declined." I know that failure to follow the recommendations about vaccination may endanger the health or life of my child and others with whom my child might come into contact. I therefore agree to tell all health care professionals in all settings what vaccines my child has not received because he or she may need to be isolated or may require immediate medical evaluation and tests that might not be necessary if my child had been vaccinated.

I know that I may readdress this issue with my child's doctor or nurse at any time and that I may change my mind and accept vaccination for my child any time in the future.

I acknowledge that I have read this document in its entirety and fully understand it.

I have been provided with and given the opportunity to read each Vaccine Information Statement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explaining the vaccine(s) and the disease(s) it prevents for each of the vaccine(s) checked as recommended and which I have declined, as indicated above. I have had the opportunity to discuss the recommendation and my refusal with my child's doctor or nurse, who has answered all of my questions about the recommended vaccine(s). A list of reasons for vaccinating, possible health consequences of non-vaccination, and possible side effects of each vaccine is available at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm). I understand the following:

- The purpose of and the need for the recommended vaccine(s).
- The risks and benefits of the recommended vaccine(s).

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have had the opportunity to rediscuss my decision not to vaccinate my child and still decline the recommended immunizations.

Parent's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Parental Refusal to Accept Vaccination: Resources for Pediatricians

The following are some of the resources available to help pediatricians develop a productive dialogue with vaccine-hesitant parents and answer questions about vaccine risks and benefits:

### Web Sites

#### 1. AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP)

Information for providers and parents.  
[www.aap.org/immunization](http://www.aap.org/immunization)

[www2.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/refusaltovaccinate.html](http://www2.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/refusaltovaccinate.html)

#### 2. Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)

The IAC works to increase immunization rates by creating and distributing educational materials for health professionals and the public that enhance the delivery of safe and effective immunization services. The IAC “Unprotected People Reports” are case reports, personal testimonies, and newspaper and journal articles about people who have suffered or died from vaccine-preventable diseases.

[www.immunize.org/reports](http://www.immunize.org/reports)

#### 3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Immunization Program

Information about vaccine safety.

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp.htm)

#### 4. National Network for Immunization Information (NNii)

Includes information to help answer patients’ questions and provide the facts about immunizations.

<http://www.immunizationinfo.org/professionals>

#### 5. Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Information for parents includes “Vaccine Safety FAQs” and “A Look at Each Vaccine.”

[www.vaccine.chop.edu](http://www.vaccine.chop.edu)

#### 6. Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Provides an independent assessment of vaccines and vaccine safety to help guide decision-makers and educate physicians, the public, and the media about key issues surrounding the safety of vaccines.

[www.vaccinesafety.edu](http://www.vaccinesafety.edu)

#### 7. Immunize Canada

Immunize Canada aims to meet the goal of eliminating vaccine-preventable disease through education, promotion, advocacy, and media relations. It includes resources for parents and providers.

[www.immunize.cpha.ca/en/default.aspx](http://www.immunize.cpha.ca/en/default.aspx)

#### 8. Sample office policy/letter to parents about refusal to vaccinate

### Journal Articles

1. Offit PA, Jew RK. Addressing parents’ concerns: do vaccines contain harmful preservatives, adjuvants, additives, or residuals? *Pediatrics*. 2003;112(6 Pt 1):1394–1397

2. Offit PA, Quarles J, Gerber MA, et al. Addressing parents’ concerns: do multiple vaccines overwhelm or weaken the infant’s immune system? *Pediatrics*. 2002;109(1):124–129

3. Diekema DS, American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Bioethics. Responding to parental refusals of immunization of children. *Pediatrics*. 2005;115(5):1428–1431

### Books

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. *Red Book: 2012 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. Pickering LK, Baker CJ, Long SS, Kimberlin DW, eds. 29th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2012

2. Marshall GS. *The Vaccine Handbook: A Practical Guide for Clinicians*. 5th ed. West Islip, NY: Professional Communications, Inc; 2015

### Handout

1. Immunization Action Coalition. Reliable sources of immunization information: where to go to find answers! <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4012.pdf>. Accessed October 17, 2012

## Reliable Immunization Resources for Parents

### Web Sites

#### 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccine Information Statements

Provide possible health consequences of non-vaccination and possible side effects of each vaccine.

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm)

#### 2. AAP Childhood Immunization Support Program (CISP)

Information for providers and parents.

[www.aap.org/immunization](http://www.aap.org/immunization)

#### 3. Why Immunize?

A description of the individual diseases and the benefits expected from vaccination.

[www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq/whyimmunize.pdf](http://www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq/whyimmunize.pdf)

#### 4. Pennsylvania Immunization Education Program of Pennsylvania Chapter, AAP

Includes answers to common vaccine questions and topics, such as addressing vaccine safety concerns; evaluating anti-vaccine claims; sources of accurate immunization information on the Web; and talking with parents about vaccine safety.

[www.paiep.org](http://www.paiep.org)

#### 5. CDC For Parents: Vaccines for Your Children

Information about vaccine safety.

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html)

#### 6. National Network for Immunization Information (NNii)

Includes information to help answer patients’ questions and provide the facts about immunizations.

[www.immunizationinfo.org/parents](http://www.immunizationinfo.org/parents)

#### 7. Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

Information for parents includes “Vaccine Safety FAQs” and “A Look at Each Vaccine.”

[www.vaccine.chop.edu](http://www.vaccine.chop.edu)

#### 8. Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Provides an independent assessment of vaccines and vaccine safety to help guide decision-makers and educate physicians, the public, and the media about key issues surrounding the safety of vaccines.

[www.vaccinesafety.edu](http://www.vaccinesafety.edu)

#### 9. Immunize Canada

Immunize Canada aims to meet the goal of eliminating vaccine-preventable disease through education, promotion, advocacy, and media relations. It includes resources for parents and providers.

<http://immunize.cpha.ca/en/default.aspx>

#### 10. Vaccinate Your Baby

This Every Child By Two site serves as a central resource of vaccine information for parents. The site links to the latest research and studies about vaccines, an interactive timeline on the benefits of vaccines, information about vaccine safety and ingredients, and the importance of adhering to the recommended schedule.

[www.vaccinateyourbaby.org](http://www.vaccinateyourbaby.org)

### Books

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. *Immunizations and Infectious Diseases: An Informed Parent’s Guide*. Fisher MC, ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2006

2. Myers MG, Pineda D. *Do Vaccines Cause That?! A Guide for Evaluating Vaccine Safety Concerns*. Galveston, TX: Immunizations for Public Health; 2008

3. Offit PA. *Autism’s False Prophets: Bad Science, Risky Medicine, and the Search for a Cure*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press; 2008

4. Offit PA. *Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All*. New York, NY: Basic Books; 2011

5. Mnookin S. *The Panic Virus: A True Story of Medicine, Science, and Fear*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster; 2011

6. Offit PA, Moser CA. *Vaccines and Your Child: Separating Fact from Fiction*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press; 2011