

Priority Care Pediatrics Immunization Policy

At Priority Care Pediatrics, our top priority is the well-being of our patients and their families. We respect the rights of all parents/guardians to make decisions and understand that you also want what is best for your child. In regards to immunizations, we strongly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to save lives and prevent serious illness. We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive vaccinations according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. Based on the current evidence in multiple studies, it has been overwhelmingly shown that vaccines are safe and effective. We commit to reviewing pertinent evidence regarding the safety of immunizations. Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we can perform as pediatricians and that you can perform as parents/guardians.

It is because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that the discussion whether immunizations should be given even exists. This has been proven by the eradication of smallpox, the near eradication of polio, and in more recent years, the significant decrease in meningitis. This has led to a decreased awareness and respect for these serious illnesses and their devastating consequences. In fact, increasing numbers of vaccine refusals have led to outbreaks of diseases which have previously been on the decline. By refusing to immunize your child, you are taking advantage of thousands of others who do immunize, and you place other children and adults at risk of life-threatening diseases.

Therefore, we, the pediatricians of Priority Care Pediatrics:

- **require that all patients be completely immunized according to the schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;**
- **require that immunizations be started at the first well visit;**
- **and are willing to discuss any questions you may have regarding immunizations at a separate visit, scheduled for that purpose.**

If you feel that you cannot comply with this policy, you will need to find another health care provider. We do not have a list of these providers nor would we recommend them. There is no controversy regarding the safety of immunizations; immunizing your child is the right decision. At Priority Care Pediatrics, we look forward to working with you to provide the best care possible for your child.

For your information, the following list contains several websites with information regarding vaccines:

www.aap.org

www.immunize.org

www.vaccine.chop.edu

www.vaccinateyourbaby.org

www.cdc.gov/od/science/iso/concerns

www.iansrainbow.org