



Vaccine Policy

Every day we encounter questions concerning the safety of the currently recommended vaccines and the immunization schedule. In response to the increasing concerns expressed by parents, we have developed a policy statement which we hope will carefully and thoroughly address your concerns.

Yavapai Pediatrics is implementing a new immunization policy effective immediately. Based on the currently available scientific data and facts, here is our policy regarding childhood immunizations. Please review this policy and contact us with any questions, concerns or if you need further clarification.

Yavapai Pediatrics has always endorsed the childhood immunization policy recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the nation's premier institute dedicated to the health of ALL children. These guidelines, based on scrupulous worldwide scientific research, reflect no link between childhood vaccines and the risk of autism and/or other adverse neurological outcomes.

In recent years, the media and internet have bombarded families about the "risks" of vaccines. On the contrary, current evidence repeatedly validates the safety and efficacy of vaccines. There are false reports that some dangerous childhood illnesses, preventable by vaccination, are now nonexistent. When the majority of the population is immunized, "herd immunity" eradicates childhood diseases such as polio, whooping cough, measles, mumps, etc. In proportion to the declining rates of childhood immunization, this "herd immunity" in the general population has also declined. Potentially fatal and handicapping childhood diseases are therefore making a comeback in the US.

We realize that families may be apprehensive about making the decision to immunize their child(ren). For some families, it is a deeply personal choice because of a child or family member with special health care needs.

Yavapai Pediatrics has a duty to protect EACH child in the practice. It is a serious public health risk to expose patients to sick children in the waiting room who are NOT immunized. The most vulnerable patients, who will be most severely affected, are infants too young to be immunized.

Trust is the cornerstone of the parent/healthcare provider relationship. Therefore, we respectfully state that refusing one or all childhood vaccines is not conducive to a trusting partnership.

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Effective immediately, Yavapai Pediatrics will no longer accept new patients whose parents have decided--with no valid medical reason--to not immunize their child in accordance with the AAP/CDC guidelines. We do this to protect our most vulnerable patients--newborns who are too young to receive vaccines and patients with weakened immune systems (such as children with cancer or transplanted organs) who have a valid medical reason they cannot receive vaccines.

The following vaccines, though highly recommended, if refused will not result in dismissal from our practice: HPV, Hepatitis B and Influenza.

Established families in our practice whose children are currently on "alternate schedules" or completely unimmunized will need to start bringing their child up to date on recommended vaccines. If you are a parent of such a family and you cannot agree to vaccinate your child according to the AAP/CDC schedule, we will ask that you find another medical practice aligned to your personal philosophy on vaccines. Please contact us if you wish your child's medical records be transferred to a different provider.

As inferred above, our new policy does NOT apply to children in whom vaccines cannot be administered for specific medical reasons.

We hope to allay your fears about vaccines and have a mutually satisfactory relationship in the years to come.

We thank you for understanding the changes we are making in hopes to provide your child with the highest standard of care.

Patient's Name/s

Printed Name of Patient or legal representative

Signature of Patient or legal representative

Relationship to Patient

Date

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