

At Primary Pediatrics, we take pride in providing excellent quality care for your children. Our physicians and nurse practitioners work diligently to keep up to date in the latest recommendations and guidelines in order to make sure that your children are always receiving the best medical care possible.

Our governing board, the American Academy of Pediatrics, has been charged with establishing policies and making recommendations to keep children safe and healthy. Many years of research and evidence has gone into their recommendations, which we then, in turn, base our practice guidelines on. In the past, we have been tolerant and understanding that parents have concerns with vaccines and have used these encounters to provide factual evidence regarding the safety of vaccines and the importance of vaccinations to an individual child and for the safety of all children. Recently, groups in our society have used the Internet to spread a variety of falsehoods regarding vaccinations, and we have had a small group of parents refuse to vaccinate or feel a schedule of vaccines that they have come up with is safer than the schedule recommended by health care experts worldwide.

Due to the recent policy statement in August of 2016 by American Academy of Pediatrics that encourages pediatricians to dismiss patients who are unvaccinated, we have had to re-evaluate our policy regarding unvaccinated or under-vaccinated patients using our practice for healthcare. In our community, there has been a resurgence of whooping cough, measles, and mumps, which can be deadly to our children. It is our responsibility to protect the young and immunosuppressed, who haven't yet or are unable to receive vaccines due to age or chemotherapy.

At Primary Pediatrics, we firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illnesses and save lives. We believe in the safety of vaccines and that all children should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). In addition, we believe, based on all the available literature and evidence, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. All of the children of our physicians and nurse practitioners have been fully vaccinated.

**In light of these recent changes, we will no longer be able to provide care for any unvaccinated or undervaccinated patients.** Several of our vaccine-compliant families have expressed concern over possible exposure in our office. We have many patients too young or immunocompromised and unable to receive vaccines, and they rely on us as their healthcare providers to limit exposure to deadly illnesses.

As of October 1, 2016, our practice will not accept new families that do not vaccinate their children. Established patients that are behind on the State of Kentucky required vaccines will be given sufficient time and notice to bring their children up to date. Patients that are behind on vaccinations will be given 3 months to start vaccinations. During that time, we encourage you to bring all questions and concerns to your provider, where you will be given sufficient time to discuss and review evidence-based literature. If after that time you still wish to refuse vaccinations, your records will be released to you and you will be required to establish care with another healthcare provider.

**Primary Pediatrics Policy on Vaccinations:**

--All children must receive all vaccines recommended by the AAP that are mandated for school entry by the State of Kentucky, as well as the complete Hib and Prevnar series, to be started and completed by the AAP window.

--Exceptions to the AAP window include Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, Influenza, HPV, and Trumenba

- Hepatitis B must be completed by school entry

- Hepatitis A, while strongly recommended by our providers, may be deferred until required by the State of Kentucky for school entry

- Influenza is recommended yearly for all children over the age of 6 months, but is not mandatory at this time

- HPV is strongly recommended for all teenagers, but is not mandatory at this time

- Trumenba is recommended for all patients leaving for college, but is not required at this time

--If a parent wishes to limit their child's vaccines to only one or two at a time, this will be allowed as long as completed within the recommended AAP window (willing to come in weekly or monthly to make sure they stay on schedule), and must be discussed with a provider prior to starting

--Parents or caregivers who don't wish to comply with the above vaccine policy will be given 3 months to find another provider and establish care. We do not keep a list of providers accepting new unvaccinated patients.

The CDC guidelines for vaccinations can be found at  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/index.html>

For more information, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines>

<http://www2.aap.org/immunization>

<http://www.immunize.org>