

Nov 1, 2019



Pediatric HealthCare Vaccine Statement

Vaccines continue to be a hot topic of discussion for parents. For those of us in medicine, though, we consider them a wonderful scientific advancement. After putting in many years in the study of medicine and learning not only how the body works, but how the things around us affect our bodies and our minds, we appreciate having those advancements in medicine that allow us protection from things we do not have control over, like infections and cancer.

Whitney Houston sang about how “the children are our future”. At Pediatric HealthCare, children are our past, present, and future. We have spent many years educating ourselves how to provide the best care to help them today so that they live a happy and healthy tomorrow. We have worked to ensure that we stay up to date on medicine that is scientifically proven to minimize the risk of illness and treat disease.

The first vaccine known in history was a live attenuated vaccine developed for small pox in 1798. A rabies vaccine followed almost 100 year later in 1885. Subsequently, killed vaccines were developed for Typhoid, cholera, and the plague in the late 1800s. However, we tend to remember one of the greatest advancements in vaccines with the development of the polio virus vaccine which was the first vaccine to be developed in in-vitro culture (without the assistance of an animal host). Since that time, scientists have continued to develop and refine vaccines to make them more effective and safe.

In caring for your children, we use evidence-based medicine. This involves research that is done by a scientific method that is free of bias or prejudice, controlled for factors that irrelevant to the study, and wide spread enough to be attributable to the population as a whole. It allows us to come up with information that is rational, objective, testable, and provable or disprovable. It then involves translating that information into clinical reasoning and use. This does not allow for anecdotal evidence which is information that is not necessarily true or factual, but instead based on someone’s beliefs.

Vaccines in medicine are based on evidence-based science. Vaccinations have been proven to reduce disease, disability, and death from a variety of infectious diseases. Vaccines not only have been tested and shown to provide individual protection for those persons who are vaccinated, they can also provide community protection by reducing the spread of disease within a population.

Simply put...**VACCINES SAVE LIVES!**

We, at Pediatric HealthCare, love our jobs. We love the people we care for. We love their families. We have spent years working to provide the best care for all of you. We feel that vaccines are a very large

Nov 1, 2019

part of the quality care we provide. We also feel that the relationship we have with you and your child is a two way street. We respect your need to love and advocate for your children, but we also hope that you respect the years we have put into our education so that we know and are able to provide the best care. There are those who choose not to vaccinate their children. While we understand the fear that has been offered up by much anecdotal information freely published on the internet, it is not scientific fact. While vaccines are not free of adverse events (just as driving home in your car on a dry day is not), the events are continuously monitored and reported. Scientific studies show that vaccines continue to be a safe, effective, and vital part of a child's health.

Starting November 1, 2019, there will be a new vaccine policy at Pediatric HealthCare. We do not enter in to this decision lightly but with the knowledge and the need for reciprocated respect for the medical care we provide. We recommend care that we know to be the best for your child and our own. In choosing to deny that fundamental care, we feel that there has been a loss of trust in our medical knowledge and ability.

Starting November 1, 2019:

- We will no longer accept new patients who are refusing all vaccinations.
- We will accept those who are uncertain about vaccines and continue to request/require ongoing education regarding vaccines.
- All those who are uncertain or delayed, we expect to be caught up on their vaccines by their 2nd birthday. For those who are older than 2 years when they start, we expect them to be caught up on vaccines within 6 months of joining our practice.
- We will continue to see our existing patients and continue to educate them regarding vaccines.

Our hope is to continue to create a place where you feel that your child is in the most capable, knowledgeable, and supportive hands. We will continue to strive to make this a place of trust and respect to assist you in raising children who are happy and healthy.

Kindest regards,

The Staff and Physicians of Pediatric HealthCare