



Town Pediatrics, PC

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VACCINATION POLICY

Welcome to Town Pediatrics! One of the most important services we can provide our patients is vaccinations against life-threatening disease. Our providers firmly believe in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives. We believe that **vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities**; in fact, medical literature and scientific studies have shown no such link.

Town Pediatrics believes that childhood vaccines are critical to maintaining healthy children and communities. As medical professionals, we resolutely believe that vaccinating children on schedule as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. As such we want to make clear our position to all of our patients regarding recommended vaccines.

We offer vaccines in accordance with the AAP Bright Futures Guidelines in conjunction with the CDC schedule. With limited exceptions, Virginia law also requires that parents or guardians immunize their children in accordance with CDC schedule. We do not recommend or endorse any alternate schedule.

Each time a vaccination is recommended for your child in accordance with the CDC schedule, we will provide a Vaccine Information Statement for that vaccine, and ensure that you have an opportunity to read that statement and ask any questions you may have. Failure to follow the recommended immunization schedule can lead to serious negative health consequences for both the unvaccinated child and others, including contracting the illness the vaccine is designed to prevent and transmitting the disease to others.

When a parent or guardian declines a scheduled vaccine on behalf of one of our patients, we require that parent or guardian to complete a Refusal to Vaccinate form acknowledging that decision. A copy of our current form is attached. As that form indicates, any risk resulting from the choice to delay or refuse immunizations as recommended by the CDC schedule is assumed



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by the parent or guardian making the choice. This form must be completed each time a vaccine is refused. If you both decline vaccines and decline to sign the form that releases us from liability related to having a child or teen not be fully immunized, it will jeopardize our professional relationship with you and your child. We would have to ask you to transfer your child's care to a different practice. We hope that by making our position clear, it will help you decide if Town Pediatrics is the right practice for your child. We look forward to a great professional relationship with your family and providing your children with pediatric care according to best practice standards.

Thank you for choosing Town Pediatrics as your child's medical home.

Sincerely,

Patricia Rappaport, M.D.

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Louise Chamberlain, M.D.

Stephanie Konkus, M.D.

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