



Department of Pediatrics

Policy on Childhood Immunizations

There is much discussion about the efficacy and safety of child immunizations. The physicians and nurse practitioners of Pentucket Medical Pediatrics are committed to the timely and complete immunization of all children. The immunization schedules we follow are consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice.

Vaccines are exceedingly safe and effective in preventing a number of serious or life threatening infections, many of which our physicians have seen in the recent past causing permanent disability or death. We strongly believe that vaccines do not cause autism (or other developmental disability) based on available literature, evidence and studies.

This complete immunization policy is in place to protect your child, other patients in our medical suite who might be unable to fight off infections (e.g. children on chemotherapy for cancer) and the general public.

Massachusetts state law requires proof of immunization status on entry to kindergarten and again in middle school.

At Pentucket Medical Pediatrics, families that decline all vaccines will be directed to other health care clinicians outside Pentucket Medical. Those who seek to alter the number or timing of vaccines can review the published schedule. The ultimate decision on modification of vaccination schedules, however, rests with the physician or nurse practitioner, since it is ultimately the clinician who is responsible for the safety of care provided for the child.

Your physician or nurse practitioner will be happy to review the schedule with you and discuss any concerns you might have.