

Immunization Policy Acknowledgement

As specialists who study, train, and provide care to children and teens, we fully embrace the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and Center for Disease Control (CDC). Immunizations are the most effective way to safeguard children's health from serious and fatal infectious diseases.

We recognize parents have an important role in healthcare decisions regarding their children including immunizations. While we respect parents' decisions regarding immunizations, we are also responsible for the safety of all patients attending the clinic, especially in regard to exposure to communicable diseases while visiting our office.

Measles is the most highly contagious virus that presents a risk to children. A person or child infected with measles is contagious for 24 hours prior to development of symptoms. Moreover, the virus is rapidly transmitted throughout a household, a building, a clinic, or other public setting. Measles is suspended in the air and will pass through ventilation systems, even after the infected individual has left the building and remains in circulation for several hours afterward.

Risks of measles include:

- Death in 3 of every 1,000 children infected by measles
- Encephalitis — viral infection of brain leading to permanent brain damage in 1 out of 1,000 people with measles
- Secondary bacterial infection of blood-sepsis and lungs-pneumonia
- Suppressed immune function for months after measles leading to increased bacterial and viral infections
- SSPE (subacute sclerosing panencephalitis), a rare condition leading to brain deterioration, severe seizures occurring 7-10 years after measles in up to 7 out of every 100,000 people who were infected by measles

After considerable thought, weighing the personal choices of families of whether to vaccinate or not versus the risk of acquiring a preventable disease within our office, the Salem Pediatric Clinic clinicians are strongly encouraging all children to be immunized against measles after 12 months of age as recommended. Children not immunized with their first measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) by 24 months of age will be requested to seek medical care elsewhere. Children who have not received their second MMR by 6 years of age, will also be requested to seek medical care elsewhere. Older children who have not received or completed their MMR vaccination will be allowed a six-month span of time to complete the two vaccinations of MMR as required to promote immunity.

The only exception will be for children with a documented medical contraindication as recognized by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Please discuss any concerns with your child's or children's Primary Care Provider.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE IMMUNIZATION POLICY.

Signed by _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

Relationship to patient _____

Patient Name _____

Patient date of birth _____



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