

At Grace Pediatrics we believe:

- In the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.
- In the safety of vaccines.
- 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).
- Based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

All of the children of our doctors and nurse practitioners have been fully vaccinated. Our providers believe that vaccinating your children may be the *single most important* health-promoting and life-saving intervention that you can perform as parents.

**Effective January 1, 2017 our practice will not accept new families that choose not to vaccinate.** The vast majority of our patients are current on their vaccines. If your child is behind we will provide easy access to getting your child up to date.

Our policy states:

1. All children must receive all vaccines recommended by the AAP that are mandated for school entry by the State of Tennessee.
2. Children must receive all vaccines required during the first twelve months by the age of one. All children must be fully vaccinated by the age of two.
3. We recommend utilizing the routine immunization schedule as determined by the AAP and the CDC.
4. Parents who elect not to follow the routine immunization schedule should discuss the alternate schedule with their primary care provider to have the specific schedule approved.
5. The Influenza vaccine is strongly recommended yearly for all children over the age of 6 months; however it is not mandatory at this time.

6. The Gardasil (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine series is approved and strongly recommended for older children and teens, to start ideally between the ages of 9-13, but it is not mandatory at this time.
7. Families who establish care with Grace Pediatrics after January 1, 2017 and ultimately decide not to vaccinate in agreement with our stated policy will be given a 1 month grace period to find an alternative primary care provider. We do not keep a list of such providers, and will not be able to provide families with names of physicians who accept families who choose not to vaccinate their children.
8. CDC guidelines provide a window for when a specific vaccine should be given. This allows sufficient flexibility in getting your child properly vaccinated. We prefer to remain your child's Pediatrician and will not dismiss any family who is actively working to comply with our vaccine policy.

Please contact us at the office if you have any questions or concerns. Our staff is here to help you understand the importance of routine immunizations.