



## Geronimo Village Pediatrics

### Vaccine Policy

We strongly recommend utilizing the immunization schedule as is recommended and determined by the AAP and CDC.

1. All children must receive all vaccines recommended by the AAP that are mandated for school entry by the State of TX.
2. All children must begin receiving vaccines by age 2 months.
3. If a caregiver elects to give less than the recommended number of vaccines at a visit, the child must return to the office at 1-2 week intervals to stay within the recommended “window” for the vaccines. A follow up vaccine only appointment should be made when leaving the office after a child’s checkup.
4. All parents who do not follow the exact AAP vaccine guidelines must sign a waiver that they are utilizing an alternate vaccine schedule, approved and completed at the time of the visit.
5. In order to make the alternate schedule clear to providers, we will enter “refused vaccine” into a patient’s EHR immunization record if they didn’t get the recommended vaccines on that day.
6. If a patient misses a “vaccine only” appointment, we will call to reschedule the appointment. Caregivers who are following an alternate vaccine schedule who do not adhere to their agreement and who don’t have a medical reason for their child missing the vaccine appointment will be given a warning, and their child’s provider will be notified of the missed appointment. If a caregiver fails to keep a 2nd vaccine appointment, the patient will be discharged from the practice.
7. Caretakers who do not plan on immunizing their children within the time frame specified will be given a 1-month grace period to find another pediatric practice.

\*\*The Influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for all children and teens age 18 or younger. It is not mandatory except for children in a state-registered daycare or preschool.

\*\*The Gardasil vaccine is an anti-cancer, two or three dose vaccine series which is strongly recommended for older children and teens. Research shows that it is most effective when given during the preteen/early teen years (11y/- 13y).

We are happy to discuss our policy with any of our families. We hope that you understand that we have devised our policy in order to protect children, their families and our communities from dreadful diseases and potential death by administering safe and effective vaccines in a reasonable, organized and practical way!

