



Manhattan Primary Care Vaccine Policy Statement

- Vaccines have been proven to be effective in preventing serious illness and death related to certain diseases.
- Based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. The benefits of vaccines far outweigh any perceived or unproven risks of harm to children.
- Vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.
- All children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The recommended vaccines and the schedule given are the results of years of scientific study and data gathering by thousands of scientists and physicians.

Because of vaccines, most parents today have never seen a child suffer from specific diseases such as polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, measles, or complicated chickenpox. Such success can make us complacent about vaccinating. Unfortunately, as vaccine rates drop, certain diseases are reemerging with tragic results.

Deviation from the standard vaccine schedule goes against our medical advice as providers at Manhattan Primary Care. If you are considering a vaccine schedule that is different from the standard schedule, you would need to discuss this with your child's physician. Please be advised that delaying or "splitting up the vaccines" goes against expert recommendations and may put your child at risk for serious illness or even death.

We will no longer accept the risk that unimmunized or under-immunized children or teens pose to other children and their families in our practice and in our communities. If, despite our best efforts, a child remains unimmunized or under-immunized, we will ask you to find another provider who shares your views on immunizations.

Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.

We recognize that parents have many decisions to make regarding their child's medical care. Our desire is to do everything we can to protect your child's health as they grow and develop. A vital part of your child's health relies upon vaccines. We understand that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We are happy to provide education and recommended resources for further information about vaccinating your child.



Our policy states:

- All children must receive all vaccines recommended by the AAP that are mandated for school entry by the State of Kansas.
- All children must begin receiving their immunizations by age 2 months.
- We strongly recommend utilizing the immunization schedule as determined by the AAP, ACIP and CDC. “Alternative” vaccine schedules put children, adolescents and adults at an increased risk of illness. There is no medical benefit whatsoever to delaying vaccines and this may put your child at risk of vaccine administration errors. Manhattan Primary Care will accept delays of vaccine administration only if they are within the “window” period of the recommendations of AAP, ACIP and CDC.
 - If a parent or caregiver elects to limit their child to 2 vaccines at a time, they must come into the office at 1-2 week intervals to stay within the recommended “window” for the vaccines.
 - If a parent or caregiver elects to limit their child to 1 vaccine at a time, they must come into the office at weekly intervals to stay within the recommended “window” for the vaccines.
- Exceptions for the AAP window include: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A, influenza and Gardasil.
- Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B series must be completed as required by daycare or school entry.
- The influenza vaccine is strongly recommended yearly for children 6 months and older.
- The Gardasil vaccine series is strongly recommended for children, ideally between the ages of 11 and 13 years, but is not mandatory.
- Parents or caregivers who do not follow the AAP and CDC vaccine schedule must sign a copy of our vaccine policy as well as a waiver acknowledging that the family understands the risks of not vaccinating their child according to the AAP and CDC recommended schedule.
- If we are not approved by your insurance to give vaccines, the schedule must be maintained at an alternative location, such as the Riley County Health Department.
- Families who do not follow the Manhattan Primary Care vaccine policy will need to find another physician to care for their child. We will care for your child for 30 days while you make this transition.

Our providers welcome discussion about our vaccine policy with any of our families. We hope that you understand that we have devised this policy in order to protect children, their families, and our communities from serious diseases and potential death by administering safe and effective vaccines in a reasonable, organized, and practical way.

I, _____, have read the above policy and acknowledge the information provided.

Signature of parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Patient Name: _____ DOB: _____