

Lake Worth Pediatrics is committed to delivering the highest quality of preventive and interventional health care to children from birth through early adulthood. One of the most fundamental services we can provide to our patients is vaccinations against life threatening diseases. We strongly agree with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that childhood vaccines are critical to maintaining healthy children and communities. Based on current medical literature and scientific studies, we firmly believe in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious diseases and to avoid the outbreak of such diseases community-wide. Therefore, we feel that vaccinating children following the recommended schedule is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. In accordance with these views, our new policy requires that every patient in our practice be given all vaccines as mandated by the AAP, CDC and State of Florida.

### Our advised vaccine schedule:

1<sup>st</sup> visit: Hep B (if not given at hospital at birth)  
1 month: Hep B  
2 months: DTaP, Hib, polio, PCV13, oral rotavirus  
4 months: DTaP, Hib, polio, PCV13, oral rotavirus  
6 months: DTaP, Hib, PCV13, oral rotavirus. Also eligible to start receiving yearly influenza vaccine (Sept-March). Need booster 1 month after 1<sup>st</sup> dose if under age 9.  
9 months: Hep B, polio  
12 months: MMR, Varicella, Hep A  
15 months: DTaP, Hib, PCV13  
18 months: Hep A, polio  
4 years: DTaP, polio, MMR, Varicella  
11 years: Tdap, MCV4, HPV9 - need booster after 6 months  
16 years: MCV4, Men B - need booster after 1 month

Effective June 1, 2019, we will no longer be accepting new families who choose to refuse all vaccines for their children. Existing patients will have 6 months to begin vaccinating. While no medical evidence exists for modified vaccine schedules, if parents demonstrate the intent to fully vaccinate, we are willing to work with you in developing a schedule with which you feel comfortable. As a minimum standard, parents/patients must agree to receive the following vaccines:

### Minimum required vaccines:

Hep B: 3 doses before age 2  
DTaP: 4 doses before age 2, 1 dose after age 4  
Tdap: 1 dose prior to 7<sup>th</sup> grade entrance  
Hib: 4 doses before age 2  
Pneumococcal (PCV): 4 doses before age 2  
Polio: 3 doses before age 2, 1 dose after age 4  
MMR: 1 dose before age 2, 1 dose after age 4  
Varicella: 1 dose before age 2; 1 dose after age 4 – exemption for documented chickenpox

The only accepted exceptions to this policy are documented medical exemptions (i.e. severe allergic reaction to a vaccine/vaccine component or severe immunodeficiency), which legitimately put your child's health at risk. We welcome and encourage you to discuss any doubts or concerns you may have regarding vaccination with your provider, so that you are fully informed upon verbally consenting to immunizing your child. We are here to advocate for your child's immediate and future health and quality of life.

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, existing patients/parents who continue to decline required vaccines despite all our efforts will be asked to find another healthcare provider due to our compassionate concern for all children. Although herd immunity may allow the impression of natural protection, please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child and those around you, especially the most vulnerable, at unnecessary risk for life threatening illness, disability, and even death. Also, please be aware there are many web sites that contain misinformation about vaccines. We encourage you to consult legitimate, science-based sources such as the ones linked below.

### American Academy of Pediatrics

[www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Pages/Immunizations-home.aspx](http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Pages/Immunizations-home.aspx)

[www.healthychildren.org/english/safety-prevention/immunizations/pages/default.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/english/safety-prevention/immunizations/pages/default.aspx)

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/)

### Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

[www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center](http://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center)

### Immunization Action Coalition

[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

### Institute for Vaccine Safety

[www.vaccinesafety.edu](http://www.vaccinesafety.edu)