

## Acknowledgement of Vaccine Guidelines for Rivertown Pediatrics

We recognize some parents have reservations about vaccinations, and we respect the parents' role as the ultimate decision makers regarding their child's healthcare. We, as healthcare providers feel strongly about the importance of vaccines and the impact they have in preventing illness and disease. For that reason, we find it necessary to be transparent regarding our vaccine guidelines so there is a clear understanding of expectations as we both seek to do what's best for your child.

- 1) Rivertown Pediatrics will not accept new patients who categorically refuse all vaccinations.
- 2) We believe in the safety of vaccines and recommend utilizing the immunization schedule as determined by the Centers for Disease Control, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and American Academy of Pediatrics.
- 3) All children must begin receiving their immunizations by age 4 months.
- 4) All children must receive all vaccines recommended by the AAP that are *mandated for school entry* by the State of Georgia and/or Alabama.
- 5) The Influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for all children and teens age 18 or younger, but it is not mandatory.
- 6) The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series is approved and recommended for older children and teens, ideally between the ages of 11-13, but it isn't mandatory.
- 7) We will try to accommodate families who wish to follow an alternative immunization schedule. These can be discussed and approved by the physician, but we ask that alternative schedules provide that the child will be fully up to date with immunizations by age 30 months, and that by age 5 years, the child has met the vaccine requirements mandated for entry into schools in Georgia and Alabama. Parents may be asked to provide their proposed alternative schedule in writing for review and discussion with their physician.
- 8) Parents who refuse particular vaccines will be asked to sign a refusal to vaccinate form to document that they have been informed about the risks and are acting against the physician's advice.
- 9) Please be advised, however, that delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness and goes against our medical advice as providers at Rivertown Pediatrics. Such additional visits will require additional copays on your part. Parents or caregivers who do not adhere to the above guidelines for their children will be given one warning. If they fail to keep an additional vaccine appointment, they will be discharged from the practice.
- 10) It is **your** responsibility to notify healthcare providers your child is not up to date with vaccines at EVERY encounter, including telephone encounters. This information may have an impact on recommended treatments and must be known at all times by healthcare providers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Provider Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date