



MEASLES VACCINATION POLICY

Due to the high number of measles cases in the United States in 2019 (**839 cases as of May 10, 2019**), now identified in 23 states including Tennessee. Kids Kare Pediatrics is requiring that all patients 12 months and older be fully vaccinated with the measles-mumps-rubella or MMR vaccine. Children need 1 dose of MMR vaccine at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second dose at 4 to 6 years of age.

We provide care to children of all ages, and as health care providers we must be diligent in protecting our patients who are at risk of getting measles. Children younger than 12 months of age and those with weaker immune systems such as cancer patients and transplant recipients are considered to be at high-risk. These patients cannot receive the measles vaccine.

We will no longer accept “religious exemption” as an excuse to not receive the measles vaccine. Kids Kare Pediatrics believes the scientific evidence supporting the safe track record of the MMR vaccine and that it really helps to prevent measles. The measles vaccine **does not cause autism**, nor does any other vaccine.

The measles vaccine has been used for over 63 years and has been **proven safe and effective**. Prior to the start of the measles vaccine program in 1963, an estimated 3 to 4 million people contracted measles yearly in the United States. About 500,000 cases were reported each year to the CDC, and 400 to 500 of these cases died, 48,000 were hospitalized, and 1,000 developed brain swelling or encephalitis from measles.

Today, the widespread use of measles vaccine has led to a greater than **99% reduction in measles cases** compared to the pre-vaccine era. However, measles continues to be common in other countries. Unvaccinated people traveling abroad contract the illness, bring the disease into the United States, and unfortunately spread it to others who are mostly not vaccinated.

If we identify that your child did not receive the required measles vaccine series (1st dose to be given at 12-15 months of age, and 2nd dose to be given at 4-6 years of age), then we will contact you to inform you of this policy and ask you to get your child vaccinated with the measles vaccine within 30 days. Patients who are not compliant with this policy after a warning is given will be properly discharged from our practice.

Thank you.

Kids Kare Pediatrics