Virginia Pediatric Group, Ltd.

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Virginia Pediatric Group Vaccination Policy

We believe in vaccination of children according to the national standards of care set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to protect the health of your child and community.

One of the most important services we provide to our patients and their families is vaccinations. It is the best primary disease prevention that our health care system has to offer. Your clinicians at the Virginia Pediatric Group advocate for all families to fully vaccinate their children. The AAP recommended vaccination schedule is safe and effective. There is nothing more effective than immunizations to protect the health of your child and our community. We expect all our families to vaccinate their children. Delaying or giving fewer vaccines at a time goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at risk for serious illness or even death. The value and safety of immunizations are sometimes misrepresented on the internet, through inaccurate media and sometimes even by well-intended advice from individuals you know and respect. We will strive to provide you with the most up to date knowledge and guidance at each visit regarding disease prevention with the priority of protecting your child, the community, and the vulnerable populations who may not be protected by immunization. We have a specific set of expectations for vaccinating children and will not make exceptions:

- Vaccinations will be coordinated with the routine well child visits based on the vaccination schedule for children recommended by the AAP.
- Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended to be given in the hospital soon after birth.
- We expect our families to begin the immunization sequence by age 2 months and complete all the required vaccinations due by age 2 years.
- We expect our families to complete all of the required vaccinations through adolescence.
- If a vaccine is missed or deferred due to illness or other arrangement, it may be given at a vaccine-only appointment or at a visit for other child health services.
- If a vaccine is refused at a visit that is part of the AAP recommended schedule, we will request that you sign a form that is equivalent to an informed consent. It will be kept in the medical record.
- If there are gaps in the vaccination sequence, a catch-up vaccine schedule will be provided. This catch-up schedule will be agreed upon, signed by the parent and clinician, and based upon the AAP guidelines. This schedule must be initiated within 90 days.
- If you determine these standards are not feasible, it will be recommended that you find another pediatrician who agrees with your beliefs

Thank you for your time in reviewing this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

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