



## PEDIATRICS

### Vaccination Policy

Castle Rock Pediatrics has developed the following vaccination policy effective **1/1/2023**. We will no longer accept new patients and will be dismissing established patients who do not follow our vaccine policy requirements.

#### Background

Castle Rock Pediatrics cares greatly about the health and wellbeing of our patients. We strongly believe that vaccinations are safe and effective in preventing disease and disability. We therefore believe all children and young adults should receive all recommended vaccinations according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

- We believe in the effectiveness of vaccines.

There is an abundance of scientific evidence proving the effectiveness of vaccination in preventing serious illness and death. Vaccines have reduced the spread of disease and have saved millions of lives for over 50 years. Most childhood vaccines are 90-99% effective in preventing disease.

- We believe in the safety of vaccines.

The current schedule of administration is based on years of scientific study done by thousands of scientists and physicians. Every vaccine undergoes extensive testing before being licensed, and vaccine safety continues to be monitored as long as a vaccine is in use.

Most side effects from vaccination are minor such as low-grade fever or soreness at the injection site. Severe reactions are very rare. We believe the small risk of having a serious reaction from vaccination outweighs the risk of acquiring a vaccine-preventable illness. Based on all available evidence and studies, we firmly believe that vaccines do not cause autism.

- We believe in protecting our community.

Lack of vaccination raises the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases for everyone. When a parent chooses not to vaccinate, they are taking a significant risk with their child's health as well as the health of others around them. This leaves our entire community vulnerable, including children who are too young to benefit from vaccinations and those who cannot be vaccinated due to contraindications. We therefore believe that requiring vaccination is in the best interest of our community.

- We believe in protecting our patients and staff.

Unvaccinated children are at a much higher risk of catching a vaccine-preventable disease and could be contagious within our practice. This puts our patients and staff at risk. We believe requiring vaccination will decrease the risk of life-threatening illness within our practice.

- We believe in a trusting relationship between provider and parent.

As pediatricians, we recommend medical care that is in the best interest of our patients based on scientific evidence. By choosing not to vaccinate, a parent is refusing one of our strongest recommendations. If a parent trusts us to treat their child, we believe they should trust us on other important medical decisions such as vaccination. We would like to share values and opinions with our patients and their families. We believe that those who do not share our confidence in the safety and efficacy of vaccines would have a more trusting relationship with a provider who holds the same values and opinions.

**Requirements:**

1. Except in rare cases where there is a true medical contraindication, all of the following vaccinations are required:

- Hepatitis B (HepB), Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13), Polio (IPV), Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP and Tdap), Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR), Varicella (VAR), and Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)

The following vaccinations are recommended, but not required: Hepatitis A (HepA), Rotavirus (RV), Meningococcal B (MenB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Influenza (annually), COVID-19

2. For established patients who are currently completely unvaccinated, vaccine catch-up must be started within 30 days. For new patients who are unvaccinated, vaccines must be started within 30 days of your first appointment.

3. Alternate or delayed vaccination schedules are not recommended. The current immunization schedule has been researched extensively and has shown to be effective and safe; alternate vaccination schedules are not supported by scientific data. Alternate schedules lead to an unnecessary delay in protection, leading to increased risk of vaccine-preventable disease. Delays can also lead to medical errors. It is therefore against our medical advice as professionals to delay vaccinations. If there is a true medical reason for an alternate vaccination schedule, it may be considered in certain circumstances. Such consideration must be made and agreed upon by a provider on a case by case basis.

If you would like to make an appointment for vaccine catch-up, please call us at (303)-688-2228. If you would like to talk with us about our policy or have any questions about vaccination, feel free to call us at this same number to make a vaccine consultation appointment.

To learn more about vaccination safety and efficacy, we recommend using legitimate resources backed by scientific evidence. We suggest the following:

- American Academy of Pediatrics, [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org)
  - Scientific studies proving efficacy and safety:  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Vaccine-Studies-Examine-the-Evidence.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control, [www.cdc.gov/vaccine](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccine)
- World Health Organization National Network for Immunization Information, [www.nnii.org](http://www.nnii.org)
- National Foundation for Infectious Disease, [www.nfid.org](http://www.nfid.org)

Thank you,

Castle Rock Pediatrics