Vaccination Policy

All available scientific evidence to date recommends vaccinating individuals according to the schedules set forth by the Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. We at Pediatric Associates of Lancaster, Inc follow the recommended vaccine schedules to ensure the safety of our patients. Not following this schedule can potentially harm your child and other children in our office by unnecessarily exposing them to vaccine preventable diseases. We have therefore adopted the following policy:

- We will no longer see families who choose not to vaccinate their children according to the recommended schedule*
- We do not recommend or allow "alternative vaccine schedules"
- Patients who would like to transfer into our practice and are behind on vaccines will need to follow the recommended catch up vaccine schedule in order to be accepted in our practice

Vaccines are one of the greatest advances in medicine. They have saved millions of lives and have prevented serious illnesses. All vaccines have been previously studied and continue to be monitored for potential harmful effects. In most cases, vaccines are developed and tested for at least a decade before being used routinely. No current studies support the idea that vaccines cause harm. No data supports the use of vaccine schedules other than those set forth by the CDC, AAP, and ACIP.

Parents who choose not to have their children vaccinated according to the guidelines not only put their children at risk of getting sick, but also put other children at risk. As healthcare providers, it is our responsibility to protect as many children as possible from preventable disease.

Please feel free to discuss any questions that you may have about this policy with your provider at any time.

*Flu and HPV vaccines will remain optional as they are not state required. However, they are important and safe vaccines and parents should discuss them fully with their doctor before declining them.