

Lakewood Family Medicine Vaccine Policy Statement

In 2019, the World Health Organization listed “opting out of vaccines” as one of the top ten threats to public health worldwide. In the state of Michigan for the years 2018-2019, with the exception of polio, at least one case of EVERY vaccine preventable disease on the recommended standard vaccine series has been confirmed – this includes measles, mumps, rubella, bacterial meningitis and pertussis, the last of which has had several active outbreaks in the city of Holland. Diseases we never thought we’d see again are now circulating.

As health care providers and parents, we firmly believe that vaccinations are the single most important preventive health intervention we can offer your child. The recommended vaccines and their schedule are the result of years and years of scientific study followed by health monitoring of millions of children.

We believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent illness and save lives.

We believe in the safety of our current vaccines.

We firmly believe, based on all evidence to date, that vaccines do NOT cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We believe everyone should receive the recommended vaccines according to the schedule endorsed by the Center for Disease Control, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Medicine, as well as the State of Michigan.

We recognize that there has been controversy surrounding vaccines. However, in light of the return of vaccine preventable diseases, our practice will be making a change to our vaccine policy in an effort to prevent tragic results for your children and our community. We recognize that this change may be a very emotional one for some. If your child is not already up to date with vaccinations, we will do everything we can to work on an appropriate catchup schedule per CDC guidelines. Should you have concerns, please discuss these with your health care provider in advance of your next visit. Please be advised that delaying or “breaking up vaccines” to give one or two at a time goes against expert recommendations and can put your child at serious risk. Such additional visits may require additional copays on your part.

Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite our recommendations, we will ask you to find another health care provider. Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life threatening illness, disability and even death. We have all fully vaccinated our own children and our medical recommendation is that you do the same.

Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns about vaccines with any one of us.

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