

# SHSU Physicians Pediatric Vaccination Policy

*We respectfully ask as that all families review our vaccination policy*



SHSU Physicians always aim to be good partners with our patients and their families. Combining our medical expertise with the knowledge you have of your child, we will work together to make the right decisions for their health. We have the same goals: healthy children, cohesive families, and respect for one another.

## **Keeping our clinic safe for the most vulnerable.**

Ongoing outbreaks of measles across the U.S. in communities with low immunization rates demonstrate how quickly viruses, like measles, can spread, especially to young infants and seniors. In the face of multiple vaccine preventable outbreaks in the U.S. and a global pandemic, as well as the increase in vulnerable children in our clinic and our community, we feel it is important for ALL children to receive their vaccines according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. We want our clinic to be a safe space for infants who have not yet had the full range of vaccinations, frail seniors, pregnant women, and the many individuals with conditions that can compromise their immune systems.

## **Vaccination Guidelines Recognized Nationally.**

The CDC provides the recommended immunization schedule for children. This schedule was developed through extensive evidence-based research, supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and is the only evidence – based vaccine schedule. We at SHSU Physicians Clinic strongly support that the recommended schedule should be followed for optimal protection of your child. Deviations from this schedule should only be made in extenuating circumstances (i.e. medical condition warranting an alternative schedule). We also understand that the number of vaccines given to our children can sometimes seem overwhelming as parents; however, these vaccines have been well studied, tested, and are given to help protect children AND adults from preventable infections that can sometimes lead to hospitalizations, disability, or in some extreme cases, death. These immunizations are also required for attending childcare and public or private schools – per state (Texas) required regulations. Information about the individual vaccines being given to your child will be provided to you at the time of vaccination (or upon request).

## **Vaccinations Required for All Pediatric Patients at SHSU Physicians Clinic.**

SHSU Physicians Clinic only accepts children to the practice whose parents permit full vaccination (with the exception of the Flu Vaccine). We will allow up to 2 months to

decide whether you will fully vaccinate your child. This allows time for you and your loved ones to discuss this topic further with your physician, and still attend your newborn visits. If your child is a new patient (older than infancy) and is not fully vaccinated yet, we will permit one visit to establish care with your provider to further discuss vaccines and any hesitancy you as a family may have. Thereafter, we will work with you over a 30-day period to decide as a team what is best for your child. If you decide to fully vaccinate, we will continue to see your child in our clinic and develop a catch-up vaccine schedule. We make sure all our children are caught up within a year of having the initial vaccine catch-up discussion.

**Thank You for Trusting Us with Your Child's Care.**

If you have any questions, concerns, or barriers to vaccination, please feel free to address these with your child's provider. We also request immunization records of all our pediatric patients prior to their visit or upon arrival at their first visit. We are happy to discuss what will be best for your child and family. We have tremendous respect for the hard and emotionally difficult work that is parenting, and it is our privilege as your provider to do our best to care for you child. Thank you for helping us keep your child AND our community healthy!