



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to Updated Vaccination Policy

1. What happens if a patient has a medical exemption or contraindication?
  - Patients who have true medical contraindications, as defined by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Table 4.1, will be granted a medical exemption. Table 4.1 can be viewed via the link below. Precautions to vaccinations do not qualify for exemptions.
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>
2. Are all vaccines required?
  - While our Serenity Pediatrics clinical team strongly supports all immunizations as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are certain immunizations that are not required in order for patients to be in compliance with our updated vaccine policy. The following immunizations are **required**: DTaP, Hib, IPV, PCV15, Rotavirus, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal ACWY, & Meningococcal B. The immunizations that are not required include: HPV, influenza, and COVID vaccines.
3. Are newborns who did not receive Hepatitis B in the hospital accepted as new patients?
  - Newborns who did not receive Hepatitis B in the hospital will be accepted as new patients provided that the first dose of the vaccine will be given by on or before the patient's 2 month well visit. These patients will be accepted with the understanding that the intention is for the patient to be fully vaccinated with the required vaccinations.
4. What happens if I register as a patient at Serenity Pediatrics and I choose not to vaccinate?
  - All new patients of Serenity Pediatrics must have met the following criteria **by the 2 month well visit**:
    - 1) received their first dose of Hep B and/or any of the standard 2 month vaccines at or before the 2 month well visit appointment      OR
    - 2) have established a vaccination plan that includes receiving vaccines at the 2 month appointment and a plan that ensures that the child will be up to date by the next well visit
  - Any patients who are not in compliance with this policy will no longer be able to receive care at Serenity Pediatrics and all future appointments will be canceled.
5. What happens if I begin vaccinating my child and decide that I no longer want to proceed with vaccinations?
  - We understand that vaccination decisions can be complex and we are committed to providing evidence-based information and resources to parents and guardians to help them make informed choices regarding vaccinations. We are committed to providing information, addressing concerns, and engaging in open and

respectful dialogue with parents and guardians who have questions about vaccines. With this understanding, if you ultimately choose to stop vaccinations, we will ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views and transition your child's healthcare.

6. Can parents choose to “space-out” their child’s vaccinations?

- We will continue to accept patients on vaccine schedules where a parent may choose to “space-out” the recommended vaccinations between well visits, provided that the patient will be up to date with the required vaccines by the next routine wellness visit. Nurse shot-only appointments will be scheduled after each well visit to keep the patient on time with their vaccinations. Patients requesting a “spaced-out” schedule may be required to schedule a vaccine counseling appointment.

7. Are you accepting patients with religious or philosophical exemptions to vaccinations?

- In accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy, non-medical exemptions, including religious or philosophical exemptions will not be granted.

8. Are you accepting patients who chose alternate vaccine schedules, including the “Dr. Sears schedule”?

- As noted above in #6, we will only accept patients on “alternate” schedules provided that they are up to date with the required vaccinations by the next routine wellness visit. If the patient is found to be uncompliant with the alternate schedule at the appointment, the patient will no longer be able to receive care at Serenity Pediatrics and all future appointments will be canceled.

9. What if I am a currently established patient who plans to begin vaccinating in order to be in compliance with the policy?

- If you are a currently established patient and wish to begin vaccinations, we recommend calling to schedule a vaccine counseling appointment in order to review a catch-up immunization schedule. This schedule will be entered in your child's medical record and will be used for appointment scheduling for catch-up immunizations.

If you have any questions, concerns, or inquiries regarding our updated policy, please feel free to reach out to the office via our dedicated email address, [vaccine.policy@serenitydrs.com](mailto:vaccine.policy@serenitydrs.com)