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Dear Parents of un/under vaccinated pediatric patient(s):

It is with a heavy heart that we must inform you of a change to our vaccination policy. For some time we have been closely following the increasing rates of vaccine preventable illnesses. One of the reasons these illnesses are increasing is due to a decline in vaccination rates from parents choosing not to vaccinate. At the same time, our practice continues to see an increase in the number of patients whose parents are refusing to vaccinate their children or are requesting delays in vaccinating their children. We are concerned that the increase in these vaccine preventable illnesses poses an increasing risk to your child. We are also concerned about the risk that it poses on our youngest patients who are most vulnerable to these illnesses since certain vaccines cannot be given until they reach a specific age. We also care for children who have immunologic conditions that puts them at higher risk of lethal conditions if they contract these illnesses.

This year the rate of measles has reached the highest rate in quite some time. Whooping cough also continues to be prevalent in our community. Our goal is to keep our office as safe as possible for our patients but especially our newborns. We do have sick and well areas in our waiting room, however, in order to decrease the risk of under/unvaccinated patients who could come with a vaccine preventable disease and spread it to others, we have changed our policy.

For this reason if you will not vaccinate your child (or begin to vaccinate your child) according to the schedule and guidelines put out by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control we must ask you to seek medical care for your child elsewhere. We ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views by January 2015.

Again this has not been an easy decision for us to make. However, we firmly believe in the safety and efficacy of vaccines and in following with this belief all of our own children are fully immunized. Based on all available evidence and studies we do not believe that vaccines cause autism or other developmental disorders, we have literature at our office that we can provide you that supports this. Furthermore, insurance companies also strongly advocate immunizations and they do monitor our immunization rates. Some insurance companies are now starting to penalize providers who do not show appropriate immunization rates.

We recognize that the choice to immunize can be very emotional for some parents. Should you have doubts or concerns please discuss this with us. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Thank you,

Dr. Angeles Otero

Claudia White, ARNP

Dr. Melissa Valentin

Dr. Valerie Rios