

Dear Parents,

We just want to let everyone know that Volusia Pediatrics is still open to serve your children's medical needs.

As we continue to deal with the challenges imposed by COVID-19, we are maintaining appropriate measures to ensure your safety during your visit at the office.

Unfortunately, there has been a growing tendency for many parents to avoid doctor visits. On 4/23/2020, the New York times reported:

- "Afraid of COVID-19, parents are postponing well-child checkups, including shots, putting millions of children at risk of exposure to preventable deadly diseases."
- As parents throughout "the country cancel well-child checkups to avoid coronavirus exposure, public health experts fear they are inadvertently sowing the seeds of another health crisis."
- Specifically, "immunizations are dropping at a dangerous rate, putting millions of children at risk for measles, whooping cough and other life-threatening illnesses."

Dr. Sean T. O'Leary, a member of the AAP's committee on infectious diseases, said, "The last thing we want as the collateral damage of COVID-19 are outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, which we will almost certainly see if there continues to be a drop in vaccine uptake."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/23/health/coronavirus-measles-vaccines.html>)

The Hill likewise reported:

- The AAP and CDC "have urged doctors to keep well visits scheduled for vaccinations."
- The AAP also "encourages doctors to prioritize in-person newborn care and well visits and immunizations of infants and young children when possible"
- Additionally, "the CDC also recommends prioritizing newborn, infant and young child care if providers can only offer limited well child visits, and offers recommendations to help ensure safety including scheduling well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon."

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/494291-vaccine-rates-drop-as-parents-skip-checkups>)

We, at Volusia Pediatrics, are committed to keeping your children safe and healthy during these challenging times. Please do not hesitate to call our office to schedule your appointment.

Be healthy and be safe!

The Volusia Pediatrics Team