

THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMUNIZATIONS

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine vaccination to prevent 17 vaccine-preventable diseases that can occur in infants, children, adolescents, or adults. While some individuals choose not to vaccinate, it is important to understand that immunization can be a crucial step in preventing and even eliminat-

ing deadly diseases.

WHY DO WE VACCINATE?

Thanks to the prevalence of vaccines, some diseases (such as polio and diphtheria) are now incredibly rare in the United States. This is partly because we have been diligent about immunizing against them. But the low incidence of these diseases does not mean the vaccines are no longer necessary;

unless we can eliminate the disease completely, immunizations are essential to prevent a disease from making a comeback. For example, in the mid 1970's in Japan rumors began to spread that a certain vaccine was not safe. The immunization rate of children dropped from 80% to 10% over a period of two years and resulted in a major epidemic of the disease with 41 deaths.

IS IT SAFE?

The United States has a standing vaccine safety system that ensures vaccines are as safe as possible. Safety monitoring begins with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), who is responsible for monitoring the safety, effectiveness, and availability of vaccines. Their

work includes careful study and evaluation by highly-trained scientists and doctors. These studies identify common side effects of each vaccine and continue to monitor for side effects even after a vaccine is approved. Adverse side effects from immunization are possible. However public health officials take great care

in weighing the benefits of a vaccine against its risks before recommending vaccines. Information about risks and potential side effects are provided to patients/parents before every vaccine.

WHEN DO WE VACCINATE?

The suggested timing for each recommended

vaccine is based on the youngest age at which individuals are usually at risk, as well as the age at which the administration of the vaccine has been shown to be both effective and safe. Recommended practices are regularly reviewed, so talk to your doctor if you have questions about vaccinations for yourself or your children.

SNUGGLES

continued from page 4

step to creating a comfortable and natural environment for an infant to begin nursing," Judy Hodgson, CNO Rice County District Hospital, said. "Snuggles are serious

business around here."

For more information about The Family Birth Center at Rice County District Hospital, visit www.ricecountyhospital.com.



FAMILY BIRTH CENTER
RICE COUNTY DISTRICT HOSPITAL

We take snuggles seriously.

Delayed cord clamping combined with immediate skin-to-skin contact after birth ensures that the process of bonding and breastfeeding get the best possible start.

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE FAMILY BIRTH CENTER:

- Epidural/Anesthesia Services
- Vaginal Birth
- Natural Birth
- Scheduled and Unplanned Cesarean
- Vaginal Birth after C-Section (VBAC)
- Scheduled Induction



Prenatal Care | Labor & Delivery | Postpartum Support | Family Medicine Physicians

To schedule an appointment with a physician or certified midwife, call Linessa Rexford, OB Coordinator, at 620-278-2123.

ricecountyhospital.com

Make Heart of Kansas your Medical Home



"We Care about your Health"

1905 19th Street • Great Bend
620-792-5700



Bee Wise Immunize

Get your school immunizations NOW

Providers

Dr. Jean Pringle, MD
Jackie Reed, ARNP
Charise Oelger, PA-C
Arika Fanshier, ARNP
Carie Brown, LCSW, LCAC
Rita O'Gwin, LCSW
Jann Boucher, LPC, LCAC
Mark Blakeslee, LCMFT, LCAC

Clinic Hours:

Mon, Tues Wed & Fri
8 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Patient Centered . . .
Community Driven . . .



923 Carroll Avenue, Larned
620-285-3161
www.pawneevalleyhospital.com

Serving Your Healthcare Needs

- 24/7 Emergency Care
- Acute & Skilled Nursing
- Specialized Nursing Services
- High Complexity Laboratory
- GI Scopes
- PICC Lines
- Dental Surgery
- Pain Injection Clinic
- 64-Slice Low Dose CT Scanner
- X-Ray, Ultrasound, EEG
- Bone Density Scan (DEXA)
- Digital Mammography
- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Lymphedema Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab
- Sleep & Diagnostic Center
- Cardiac Nuclear Stress Testing
- Wound Care Clinic

- Wide Bore, Short Tube 1.5 Tesla MRI

PAWNEE VALLEY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
A HAYSMED PARTNER



620-285-3161 | 923 Carroll Avenue | Larned
www.pawneevalleyhospital.com

Pawnee Valley Medical Associates

Same-Day Appointments Available



David Sanger, MD



Christian Whittington, MD



M. Crystal Hill, MD



Kara Keenan, FNP



Jenny Manry, FNP



Bonnie Landgraf, FNP

Providing Quality Healthcare Services

Health & Wellness Checks . Family Medicine
Pediatric Care including: Well Baby & Child Exams
Immunizations, Newborn Care, Circumcisions
Sports/School/Daycare Physicals . Employee Physicals
DOT Physicals . Colon Cancer Screenings
Botox and Juvederm Treatments

Pawnee Valley
Medical Associates

A HAYSMED PARTNER

Clinic Hours:
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri
9-12 Saturday
For an appointment call:
620-804-6007

713 West 11th, Larned KS