March 26, 2020

Dear families of children under the age of 2,

You may be concerned about upcoming appointments for routine scheduled vaccinations. I would like to pass along the guidance that has been given to doctor offices regarding this matter in light of COVID-19. This will assist you in knowing what to ask about if you have a scheduled appointment for your little one coming up.

Ensuring the delivery of newborn and well-child care, including childhood immunization, requires different strategies. Healthcare providers in communities affected by COVID-19 are using strategies to separate well visits from sick visits. Examples include:

- Scheduling well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon
- Separating patients spatially, such as by placing patients with sick visits in different areas of the clinic or another location from patients with well visits.
- Collaborating with providers in the community to identify separate locations for holding well visits for children.

Because of personal, practice, or community circumstances related to COVID-19, some providers may not be able to provide well child visits, including provision of immunizations, for all patients in their practice. If a practice can provide only limited well child visits, healthcare providers are encouraged to prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age) when possible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is monitoring the situation and will continue to provide guidance.

Sincerely,

June Flanagan, RN, BSN. NJ- CSN
School Nurse