

attachment no.I

Failed to be admitted to a kindergarten despite a medical contraindication to vaccination

Our 3-year-old son Anthony K. suffers from allergies to milk, dairy products, eggs and this year a new allergy to grass pollen showed up. The situation has given us a really hard time. In the first year of life, our son received all mandatory vaccinations, and also Prevenar 13 (Optional vaccination against pneumococcus).

Since he was born prematurely, his pediatrician outlined an individual vaccination plan for him. She proposed to postpone the vaccination with Priorix (mandatory vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella) to about his 3rd birthday.

Priorix vaccine contains, among other things, egg white, to which our son is severely allergic. The leaflet even states that the vaccine should not be administered to individuals with reactions to egg protein. Our son's doctor warned us about the possibility of an allergic reaction after vaccination. She did not dare to administer the vaccine herself, however she pushed us to vaccinate very hard.

In the end she booked us into the university hospital, where doctors should have assessed whether our son could be vaccinated or not.

Meanwhile, registrations in kindergartens took place and since our son has not received all mandatory vaccinations, to this day he has not been admitted to a kindergarten.

After the kindergarten enrollment, we visited an immunologist at the University Hospital in Brno and he decided that our son should not be vaccinated by the vaccine Priorix because of contraindications to vaccination.

Unfortunately, the kindergarten director refuses to accept our son until the mandatory vaccination is completed.

There should exist an exception for such kids, shouldn't there? In the autumn I return to work and this situation is a fatal problem for us. Despite all problems we still hope that our son will be accepted to the kindergarten along with other children.

mother of Antonin K.

Individual immunization schedule is not enough

First I would like to say that I had been a vaccination supporter before I became a parent. I did not understand those who did not want to immunize their children with all the vaccines that were available. However events in life change an individual as well as one's opinions.

I started to take an interest in immunization when my first daughter was born. I was still convinced that vaccines could do no harm. I trusted the doctors. Every time our daughter was given a shot we made sure she was perfectly healthy, as well as the rest of the family. She responded quite well to all the vaccines except for the second shot of Priorix. This was probably the so called last straw and my daughter's immunity completely fell apart. A few days after the immunization she got a bad cough and also suffered from never-ending viral infections. It all resulted in meningitis of an unknown origin. My daughter became paralyzed. Full details of my daughter's story can be found in the first volume of a brochure with stories of patients after vaccination issued by the Patient's union in Czech Republic: Magdalena got paralyzed.

We decided not to administer Priorix to our younger daughter because of our bad experience and her poor health. Our younger daughter suffered from excessive mucus congestion when she was a little baby. When she was six months old she suffered from otitis media and was given her first antibiotics. In a few months

everything started all over again. For this reason her immunization started when she was 10 months old. She was given 3 doses of the vaccine and several months after that atopic eczema appeared on her skin. It is hard to say whether immunization caused it or not. However, everything points to the fact that our younger daughter's immunity has been weakened since she was a baby. When we went to see a dermatologist she told us in private that we should be very careful about proceeding with further vaccination. Our family is affected by a high genetic burden. I was allergic to milk and eggs as a child and was admitted to hospital several times.

My mother suffers from asthma and she has to be medicated. My mother's sister suffers from such a severe form of atopic eczema that her nails often crack.

Our younger daughter's eczema affected her legs and arms. She cried for several days and nights because her skin hurt.

Based on our bad experience with our older daughter, high genetic burden and recurring illnesses of our younger daughter we are very afraid to continue her vaccination now.

When we were applying for a kindergarten we submitted an admission exception request. We added medical reports and a written statement explaining our reasons for postponing further vaccination.

We met with the kindergarten director several times and thoroughly discussed our situation. She said that she understood the situation and would like to accept our daughter in the kindergarten.

However, she did not. Our pediatrician confirmed an individual immunization schedule. Our daughter's atopic eczema was also confirmed by a doctor but it is not enough. There has to be a statement confirming the child's PERMANENT contraindication. I was told that atopic eczema was not a permanent contraindication and that we should wait until our daughter would get better and then we should finish her vaccination. Furthermore, we were told that children with cancer were also vaccinated so our „illness“ was just a „silly thing“. Who cares that nobody knows what could actually happen to our daughter if we continued with her immunization?

What does it mean for us? Our daughter is excluded from all kindergartens and isolated from her peers. She cannot attend children groups either. My maternity leave is about to end and I cannot go back to my job. I started working right after high school, I have never received any benefit except for a few months after high school before I started my first job. We cannot afford a private kindergarten.

I will be forced to go to the job centre and claim benefit despite the fact that I could work instead, which I would love to do.

There should exist an exception for cases like this. In my opinion we have done everything right. Really. Think about it please... Would YOU immunize your child in such a situation? No, we are not doctors, just loving parents looking after their children around the clock. We really saw the enormous difference before and after vaccination. We were the ones who were looking after our older daughter when she got paralyzed...

Unfortunately we belong to the small percentage of cases where vaccination has gone wrong but are we to suffer further and be excluded from society?

Parents of Magdalena