



Immunization Policy Statement

Partners in Pediatrics, LLC is committed to practicing medicine in compliance with the evidence-based guidelines established by groups of experts such as the **American Academy of Pediatrics**.

We have a firm policy on vaccination as we believe so strongly in the safety and efficacy of vaccines. Furthermore, we also have a duty to protect our community as well as our patients who are unable to receive certain vaccines (either due to young age or due to being immunocompromised, etc).

At Partners in Pediatrics, we firmly believe:

- in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives;
- that all children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines* according to the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics;
- based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism, weakened immune systems or other developmental disabilities;
- that vaccinations may be the single most important intervention we perform as health care providers and the most important health intervention that you choose for your children.

The recommended vaccines and the published schedule are the results of years of scientific study and the accumulation of data on millions of children by the brightest scientist and physicians in our country. Vaccines prevent infections that can be extremely debilitating and/or life-threatening such as pertussis or whooping cough, measles, *Haemophilus influenzae type B* meningitis, and pneumococcal blood infections.

Unfortunately, the vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that parents are discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, most parents have never seen a child with bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox; most people have never heard of a friend or family member who died from one of these diseases. Such successes can make us complacent about the need for vaccination. Unfortunately, this will likely lead to tragic results. In countries where there are low vaccination rates, these illnesses are still quite prevalent. In the US and in other well-developed countries, communities with under-immunized patients are showing a rise in these once-rare diseases. As we have witnessed with the recent measles outbreak, a resurgence of these diseases can occur unless we continue to immunize children.

We present these facts not to scare or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to provide education and information regarding the recommended vaccines so that you can make an informed decision for your child. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with your health care provider. **Delaying or “breaking up the vaccines” to give one or two at a time over two or more visits can put your child at risk for serious illness or death** and goes against our medical advice as providers.

It is for these reasons that Partners in Pediatrics requires all patients to be vaccinated according to the recommended schedule.

While we are happy to answer questions and discuss the safety and efficacy of the vaccines, if parents chose to not begin routine vaccinations by the time their child is 6 months old, they will be expected to

find a different primary care office. Additionally, we will not accept transfers of unvaccinated children over the age of 6 months into our practice. Children who transfer to Partners in Pediatrics will be given 30 days in which to provide confirmation of all childhood vaccines that are currently due per the AAP's vaccine schedule or will need to initiate vaccinations within those 30 days.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Thank you for your time in reading this policy and we will gladly address any additional items you would like to discuss on an individual basis.

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to follow the immunization policy of Partners in Pediatrics, LLC.

Parent/Guardian Name

Date

**PIP's minimum vaccination requirements are not inclusive of all vaccines, and there are other vaccines that are also very important in keeping children healthy (e.g. flu/influenza, COVID-19, Hepatitis A, HPV vaccines).*

We encourage any parent who wants to learn more to visit the following websites with reliable, scientific information to explain all aspects of vaccines – from manufacturing, to how they work to protect children, to data regarding safety and efficacy.

Find vaccine education here:

Clear Answers and Smart Advice About Your Baby's Shots," an excerpt from the popular book "Baby 411" by Dr. Ari Brown – www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2068.pdf



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Q&A sheets developed by the Vaccine Education Center
Available in English and Spanish

Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center

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