



Peds & Parents Family Care, LLC

124 Andrews Way, Suite B St. Marys, Georgia 31558
Tel: (912)729-7007 FAX: (912)729-3627
Visit us online: www.pedsnparentsfamilycare.com



Vaccine Policy Statement

Vaccinating children and young adults may be the most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

We advise you to vaccinate your child because we truly care about you and your family. No child should have to suffer from a preventable illness. We seek to educate you on the facts regarding vaccinations so you will understand the importance of choosing to vaccinate.

A thorough review of available literature, evidence, and current studies indicates that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities. Thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

We believe in the safety of vaccines.

We believe that children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Having stated these beliefs, we recognize that there has always been and will always be controversy surrounding vaccination. Benjamin Franklin, persuaded by his brother, was opposed to smallpox vaccine until scientific data convinced him otherwise. Tragically, he had delayed inoculating his son Franky, who contracted smallpox and died at the age of 4, leaving Ben with a lifetime of guilt and remorse. Quoting Mr. Franklin's autobiography:

"In 1736, I lost one of my sons, a fine boy of four years old, by the smallpox...I long regretted bitterly, and still regret that I had not given it to him by inoculation. This I mention for the sake of parents who omit that operation, on the supposition that they should never forgive themselves if a child died under it, my example showing that the regret may be the same either way, and that, therefore, the safer should be chosen."

The vaccine campaign is a victim of its own success. It is because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we are even discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or even chickenpox. You have not known a friend or family member

whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent and lazy about vaccinating. Such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

By not vaccinating your child, you are relying on herd immunity which takes advantage of thousands of others who do vaccinate their children. In other words, because other children may be vaccinated, the likelihood of your child contracting one of these diseases decreases. That proves to be a very risky decision which may result in deadly consequences for your child.

Over the past several years, some parents in Europe chose not to vaccinate their children with the MMR vaccine after publication of an unfounded suspicion (later retracted) that the vaccine caused autism. As a result of under-immunization, there have been small outbreaks of measles and several deaths from complications of measles in Europe over the past several years.*

We recognize that the choice to vaccinate may be a very emotional decision for some parents. We will do everything we can to educate you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the best thing you can do for your child. However, **should you have doubts, please discuss these with your health care provider in advance of your visit. Please be advised, however, that delaying or "breaking up the vaccines" to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers at Peds & Parents Family Care, LLC. We do not "break up vaccines" for financial and moral reasons.**

Additional visits will require additional co-pays on your part. Furthermore, please realize that you will be required to sign a "Refusal to Vaccinate" acknowledgement in the event of lengthy delays.

If you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we will ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views. We do not keep a list of such providers, nor would we recommend any such physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.

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 reading this policy. We encourage you to review the sources on the back of this page to further educate yourself on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. If you have any questions, a member of our team would be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

DR. FRED S. GIRTON, MD, FAAFP, MEDICAL DIRECTOR

ROBERT DAVENPORT-RAY, APRN, CEO

*Koleva, G. (2012, July 7). What Recent Measles and Rubella Outbreaks in Europe Can Teach the U.S.. Forbes. Retrieved August 5, 2013, from <http://www.forbes.com/sites/gerganakoleva/2012/07/02/what-recent-measles-and-rubella-outbreaks-in-europe-can-teach-the-u-s/>



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Pediatric Well visit & Vaccination Schedule

Well-visits and immunizations play an important role in your child's health. After the age of two, routine physical exams (well-visits) are recommended every year and are covered by most private and state insurance plans. These well-visits include measurements, screenings, development and behavioral assessments, a thorough physical exam, recommended immunizations, and anticipatory guidance to keep your child healthy. The schedule below lists the recommended immunization schedule that we adhere to. **If you decline to vaccinate your child according to the schedule below, we will ask you to find another health care provider.** An annual flu shot is also recommended for all children 6 months and older. 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. If you have any questions, a member of our team would be happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Age	Recommended Immunizations
Birth (in Hospital)	Hepatitis B
2 Months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis HIB Polio Hepatitis B Pneumococcal Rotavirus
4 Months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis HIB Polio Hepatitis B Pneumococcal Rotavirus
6 Months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis HIB Polio Hepatitis B Pneumococcal Rotavirus
9 Months	<i>Catch-up immunizations as needed</i>
12 Months	Measles/Mumps/Rubella Varicella Pneumococcal Hepatitis A
15 Months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis/HIB/Polio <i>Catch-up immunizations as needed</i>
18 Months	Hepatitis A <i>Catch-up immunizations as needed</i>
2 Years	Hepatitis A (catch-up if needed) <i>Catch-up immunizations as needed</i>
3 Years	<i>Catch-up immunizations as needed</i>
4-5 Years	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis Polio Supplemental Pneumococcal if needed Varicella Measles/Mumps/Rubella
6-10 Years	<i>Catch-up immunizations as needed</i>
11-18 Years	Meningococcal ACWY (Initial vaccine at 11-12 years with booster after 4-5 years) Meningococcal B (Initial vaccine at 16 years with booster in 4 weeks) Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis at 11-12 years Other immunizations as needed (Hep A, HPV, Influenza)



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Additional Resources

- **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)**

Aap.org/immunization

The AAP is an organization of 60,000 primary care physicians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical subspecialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

cdc.gov/vaccines

The CDC is a government resource for vaccine safety.

- **Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)**

immunize.org

The IAC works to increase immunization rates and prevent disease by creating and distributing educational materials for health professionals and the public that enhance the delivery of safe and effective immunization services.

- **Every Child By Two (ECBT)**

vaccinateyourbaby.org and ecbt.org

Every Child By Two, founded by Rosalynn Carter and Betty Bumpers, is an organization devoted to raising awareness of the critical need for timely immunizations. ECBT's Vaccinate Your Baby web site is a one-stop shop for families with questions about vaccines.

- **Vaccine Education Center**

vaccine.chop.edu

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Vaccine Education Center provides complete and up-to-date information about vaccines to parents and health care professionals.

- **National Network for Immunization Information (NNii)**

Immunizationinfo.org

NNii is a service provided by Immunizations for Public Health, a Texas-based nonprofit corporation dedicated to making immunization information available to those who need it.

- **Institute for Vaccine Safety**

Vaccinesafety.edu

The Institute for Vaccine Safety provides an independent assessment of vaccines and vaccine safety.

- **Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases (PKIDs)**

Pkids.org

PKIDs' mission is to educate the public about infectious diseases, the methods of prevention and transmission, the latest advances in medicine, and the elimination of social stigma borne by the infected.