

PAMPA Vaccine Policy-2025

We believe very strongly that vaccination with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and adults. Therefore, we endorse the following statement from the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

“The risks of the diseases that vaccines prevent are far greater than the unproven concerns about their safety. We encourage all parents to ensure their children’s health by immunizing them on time.”

Since 2015, we have not accepted families into our practice who do not plan on vaccinating their children or who may want to follow a delayed vaccine schedule. Effective January 1, 2025, any additional newborn or adopted siblings of existing PAMPA families must intend to become vaccinated or be fully vaccinated per the vaccine schedule in order for that child to remain in our practice.

Routine childhood vaccination produced a tremendous decline in serious infections. Lives have been saved and suffering has been prevented. Before a vaccine was available, nearly everyone developed measles during childhood. Each year in the U.S., about 50,000 people were hospitalized with measles, 1,000 of which would go on to develop cases of permanent brain damage and 500 of which would die. Polio paralyzed 20,000 people per year, causing 1,000 deaths. Vaccines do a wonderful job of preventing illness, complications, and saving lives.

Immunizations are safe. Vaccines are extensively studied to show that they provide protection. Part of this research includes testing new vaccines along with existing vaccines that are given at the same time. The new vaccine must show that it does not decrease the effectiveness of the other vaccines and does not result in higher reactions. Vaccine safety is monitored by the Food and Drug Administration.

Parents who delay or decline vaccination put their children and others at risk. Outbreaks of measles in 2008 demonstrate that measles is just a plane flight away from countries where vaccine rates are low. 63 of the 64 U.S. cases of measles in 2008 occurred in unvaccinated people.

The vaccine schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) gives vaccines when they are most effective. Multiple vaccine doses over time are necessary to provide adequate protection. Delaying vaccines puts children and the community at unnecessary risk. Giving the vaccines on the recommended schedule ensures that children have immunity at the age when they are most susceptible to a preventable disease. When immunizations are delayed, we lose the opportunity to prevent diseases that occur in infancy and early childhood.

There has never been any scientific evidence that showed a child has been harmed by thimerosal, the mercury-based preservative that had been used in vaccines in the past. Major studies in Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and the United States have shown no association between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism. Other studies provide evidence that MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine does **not** cause autism.

A recent study in California looked at cases of autism and other brain disorders. They compared the diagnosis of autism prior to 2001 (the year thimerosal was removed from vaccines, except some influenza vaccines) with the rate of diagnosis after 2001. If thimerosal in vaccines caused autism, the rate should have fallen after the preservative was removed. The study showed that the rate increased.

Parents are faced with a seemingly overwhelming amount of information about vaccines and possible side effects. We encourage them to look for sources that are based on scientific evidence rather than anecdotes and emotion. A list of useful internet sites is provided for parents who desire more information.

- [Immunization Action Coalition - Immunize](#)
- [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia - Vaccine Education Center](#)

If you have any additional questions or concerns about vaccines, please discuss them with your provider at your next office visit.

Date: _____

Patient Name: _____

Patient DOB: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____