



Our Vaccine Policy – Keeping Kids Healthy Together

At Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem and Beverly, your child's health and safety are our top priority.

One of the best ways to keep kids healthy is through vaccines. We follow the guidance of trusted experts including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to make sure children get their vaccines at the right times.

These schedules are designed to protect kids when they are most at risk.

We understand that parents have questions about vaccine safety. No medicine is completely risk-free, but vaccines have been studied for decades and have been proven to be very safe. The benefits of vaccines far outweigh the small risks. In fact, vaccines are considered one of the safest and most effective tools in modern medicine.

Extensive research has shown that vaccines **do not cause autism**. National and international health organizations agree, and extensive studies have also confirmed that ingredients such as aluminum used in very small amounts are safe and boosts our immune response to the vaccine, allowing for lesser quantities of vaccine and fewer doses.

There is no benefit to delaying or separating vaccines like the MMR and delaying can leave children unprotected when they need immunity the most.

Vaccines protect against serious illnesses such as whooping cough, meningitis, and rubella—diseases that can cause lifelong complications and may even be fatal.

If you decide not to follow our vaccine policy, we respect your choice, but we recommend that you find another practice that better fits your decision and philosophy.

Infants by NINE MONTHS of age are required to have the following vaccines:
3 Dtap
3 Hib
3 PCV-20
This series of vaccines needs to start BY 4 MONTHS, at the latest to be completed by 9 months; Polio, which is part of the only combination vaccine, is administered with the above vaccines.
Hep B, which is part of the only combination vaccine, is administered with the above vaccines.
<i>Rotavirus is recommended but not required.</i>

Children by TWO YEARS are required to have the following vaccines: This series of vaccines must start by 18mths, at the latest, to complete the series by 2 yrs

4th Dtap
4th PCV-20
1 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
1 Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Hep B series for children who have not had it.
<i>Hep A and Flu vaccines are highly recommended but not required.</i>

Children between TWO AND FIVE YEARS are required to have the following vaccines:
5th DTaP
2nd MMR
4th Polio and 2nd Varicella
These Vaccines are required for school entry

Why Vaccines Are Important for Your Child’s Care

If a child does not get the required vaccines in the first 6 months of life, doctors must evaluate them differently when they are sick or have a fever. Years ago, before vaccines were common, babies under 6 months with a fever often needed a spinal tap to make sure they did not have meningitis—a life-threatening illness.

Today, vaccinated babies usually do not need this test because vaccines greatly lower their risk of meningitis. So other less invasive tests can be safely used to evaluate a sick infant with fever.

It is very important for parents to tell emergency doctors if their child has not had all their vaccines. If the doctor does not have this information, they might not treat the child the right way, and that could be dangerous.

Choosing not to get vaccines also puts other people at risk. This includes babies that are too young for vaccines, and children with weak immune systems, such as kids getting chemotherapy and those who have had an organ transplant. These children cannot get certain vaccines, and if they catch a preventable illness from an unvaccinated child, it could be life-threatening. In some cases, these children could die from a disease that vaccines prevent. We cannot allow that risk for our most vulnerable patients.

Thank you for trusting us to be partners in caring for your child. Following the recommended vaccine schedule is a big part of keeping your child healthy and protected.

Clovane Campbell, M.D., *Medical Director*

Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem and Beverly

Vaccine Policy Acknowledgment Form

Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem and Beverly

We believe vaccines are an important part of keeping children healthy and safe. Our vaccine policy explains why we follow the recommended schedule and how it protects your child and others.

Please read our vaccine policy carefully. If you have any questions, we are happy to answer them.

Acknowledgment

I have received and reviewed the Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem and Beverly Vaccine Policy.

I understand the information provided and have had the opportunity to ask questions.

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____