



Immunization Policy

Over the past thirty years, increasing numbers of families have questioned the necessity and timing of childhood vaccines. Parents are often making their decisions to delay or avoid immunizations based on unscientific sources of information – often spread via social media. The resulting decreases in vaccination rates mean that more people are now susceptible to preventable (and often untreatable) diseases and they, in turn, can pass these infections to all those around them. Here in the U.S., we have had recent outbreaks of measles, bacterial meningitis, and even polio, in unvaccinated, or under-vaccinated individuals.

As a practice, we are happy to discuss the immunizations recommended for infants, children, and adolescents. We also suggest that families look for information on credible websites such as healthychildren.org and immunize.org.

Given our commitment to public health as well as to the health and welfare of our patients and staff, Piedmont Pediatrics has a vaccine compliance policy:

1. Infants, children, and adolescents are expected to be vaccinated according to the schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).
2. If an infant has not received any vaccines by 6 months of age and does not have a written plan for catching up with the AAP schedule, they will be asked to leave the practice. We will provide a list of primary care provider options in the area.
3. If a child has not caught up with the AAP schedule by 18 months of age, they will be asked to leave the practice. We will provide a list of primary care provider options.
4. Our practice will not sign immunization forms that do not meet state requirements for school entry.

These rules will not apply if true medical contraindications exist to vaccination.

We are happy to discuss this policy further should you have any questions.

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v. 2026-02-04