

North Carolina Pediatric Associates Vaccine Policy

At North Carolina Pediatric Associates, we are dedicated to serving our patients and families with the best possible acute and preventative medical care. We are committed to practicing medicine in compliance with evidence-based practices established by nationally recognized organizations that include: the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the American Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Recently, we have noted an increase in parents requesting to differ from national guidelines concerning immunization schedules; we have an updated vaccine policy to guide us in vaccines. This policy is available at all locations. We encourage you to become familiar with this policy and appreciate you taking the time to review this important aspect of your child's medical care.

NC Pediatric Associates Vaccine Statement

North Carolina Pediatric Associates firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness. We strongly believe in the safety of nationally approved vaccines. We strongly believe that all children and young adults should receive all the required vaccines as well as the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Council on Immunization Practices. As a practice, we firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be one of the most important health promoting interventions we perform as health care providers and that you can provide as parents/caregivers. Recommended vaccines and the schedules are the results of years of scientific study and research on millions of children.

North Carolina Pediatric Associates has a goal to help parents understand the importance of vaccines and avoid the painful experience of medical complications or death of a child due to vaccine preventable illnesses. Due to vaccinations, most populations have never seen children with polio, Tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or chicken pox. Thousands of children that are vaccinated decrease the likelihood that the unvaccinated children will contact one of these diseases. We have over the past several years seen some outbreaks of various diseases; Measles, H. Influenzae, Pertussis (Whooping cough) and multiple deaths from these diseases and the complications.

As a practice, we understand that some parents may refuse to vaccinate their children despite our best efforts to educate with meaningful intent and scientific data to support our policy. North Carolina Pediatric Associates feels strongly that it is important to provide all our patients with the same level of care and would be unethical to deviate from the established standard of care, which would leave vulnerable children susceptible to potentially deadly infections. Making parents/caregivers aware of these facts is not to scare you, but to reiterate the importance of vaccinating your child. We understand that the choice may be an emotional one for some parents. We are willing to work with any family whose child is not up-to-date with their vaccines to become compliant with current recommendations by the age of 2 years old. Please understand that by not vaccinating your child, we feel you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness, disability, and even death. If such an attitude spreads widely, a reappearance of these diseases could occur. Therefore, our office is committed to consistently educating the community through our parents/caregivers and we still commit to serving your child's health needs under the following conditions:

Parents who refuse vaccinations according to the recommended vaccination schedule whether due to personal/philosophical beliefs or religious beliefs will not be accepted

into the practice unless child is getting immunized on an approved modified schedule and has child compliant by 18-24 months. We will always carefully review any true medical contraindications to specific vaccines which will be documented on separate required forms and placed in patient's medical record.

North Carolina Pediatric Associates respects a parent's personal belief and decision-making right for their child. We encourage open dialogue and educational opportunities for our parents and patients and take a strong pro-vaccine stance in medical preventative care. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation of our office policy. Please feel free to schedule additional time to discuss any questions or concerns you have about vaccines with any one of the providers.

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