



For over 100 years, Pediatric Clinic has been serving the children of Knoxville. Although much has changed, it has always been one of our most important roles as pediatricians to prevent serious illness and even death through safe and effective vaccines.

- We are convinced that vaccines prevent needless suffering and save lives.
- We are convinced that the vaccines we offer are safe.
- We are convinced that all children and teens should receive all recommended vaccines according to the American Academy of Pediatrics vaccine schedule.
<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>
- We also strongly believe, based on all available current evidence, including repeated large-scale studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4026.pdf

Considering recent changes to the CDC's recommended vaccination schedule, we want to reassure families that **Pediatric Clinic will continue to follow the vaccination schedule endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics. There is no new science to support the changes made by the CDC, and we do not intend to change our vaccination recommendations or vaccine availability.**

Declining vaccination rates in the U.S. have resulted in outbreaks of vaccine-preventable illnesses, including the current widespread measles outbreak. Herd immunity happens when enough of a population becomes immune to an infectious disease, either through past infection or vaccination, making it difficult for infection to spread. This shields individuals who can't be vaccinated, or who have weakened immune systems. Our practice has a large newborn population as well as other vulnerable patients who may be immunocompromised. Each unvaccinated child in our community breaks that shield and exposes them to risk.

Misinformation about vaccine safety is rampant on social media and the internet. We understand parents may feel uncertain as they make this important decision for their own children. **We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating on time every time is the right thing to do. If you have a question or concern about a specific vaccine, we encourage you to speak with your healthcare provider.** We are here to engage in honest, informative dialogue so you can make an educated decision. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parent reservations. **Be advised that delaying**

or “spacing out” vaccines over multiple visits goes against expert recommendations. Delaying protection puts your child at risk for serious illness or death. For this reason, if you choose a delayed schedule, we still require the primary infant and toddler series of vaccinations to be completed by the age of 2 years.

We understand that our policy might not be a good fit for your family. We respect your responsibility as parents to make decisions that align with your family’s needs. That includes having your choice of pediatric care, even if you elect another practice that can accommodate your requests regarding vaccines. **If you should absolutely refuse to vaccinate your child despite all our efforts, we may ask you to find another health care provider who shares your views.**

Because we strive to provide the highest level of evidence-based pediatric care, we continue to consider our approach to vaccinations carefully. As medical professionals, we are convinced that vaccinating on schedule with all recommended vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for our patients. We look forward to working with you as you decide the best way to protect your own family.

Sincerely,

Your Pediatric Clinic Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

Please refer to these reputable websites for further information regarding vaccines:

www.aap.org

www.immunize.org

www.vaccineinformation.org

<https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center>

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