

Pinehurst Medical Clinic, Inc. Vaccination Policy

At Pinehurst Medical Clinic, we are committed to providing the highest standard of care for our patients. We believe that vaccines are one of the most important and effective health interventions available to protect children and young adults from serious illness and death.

We strongly support the safety and effectiveness of all recommended vaccines. Based on extensive scientific evidence and decades of research, vaccines do **not** cause autism or developmental disabilities. Additionally, thimerosal, a preservative previously used in some vaccines, has not been shown to cause autism or other developmental concerns.

We follow the immunization schedules established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). These schedules are carefully developed through rigorous scientific study to ensure optimal protection at the appropriate ages.

Vaccination programs have been extraordinarily successful in reducing and eliminating many life-threatening diseases. As a result, many parents today have never seen illnesses such as measles, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis, or tetanus. However, declining vaccination rates can lead to the return of these preventable diseases, placing children and communities at risk.

We understand that vaccination decisions can be emotional for some families. Our providers are committed to discussing any questions or concerns you may have. In certain circumstances, we may consider limited adjustments to the vaccination schedule. However, delaying or separating vaccines beyond recommended guidelines increases the risk of serious illness and is not advised.

Required Vaccinations for Patients in Our Practice:

To ensure the safety of all patients, we require the following vaccines:

- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- Polio
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Pneumococcal conjugate

Recommended (but not required) vaccines include:

- Influenza
- HPV
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- RSV
- COVID-19

If you choose an alternate or delayed vaccination schedule, you must:

- Discuss this plan with your provider
- Maintain a clear plan to be fully up to date by age 2
- Sign a vaccine refusal form at each visit when vaccines are declined

If a parent or guardian ultimately refuses to vaccinate their child despite counseling and education, we will respectfully request that you establish care with another provider. This policy is in place to protect the health and safety of all patients in our practice.

Vaccinating children according to the recommended schedule is one of the most important steps we can take—together—to ensure lifelong health and prevent avoidable disease.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership in your child's care. Please speak with your provider if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Pinehurst Medical Clinic, Inc.