

# Vaccination Policy

Our mission is to provide the highest quality healthcare to the children of our community. Vaccinating children may be one of the most critical interventions to prevent serious illness we provide as health care providers.

We firmly believe:

- in the safety of our vaccines.
- that all children and young adults should receive all the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- that based on all available literature, evidence, and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

By not vaccinating, there is a significant risk to a child's health and the health of others around them. To ensure excellent health care and facilitate a safe medical home for all our patients, we are establishing a minimum standard for vaccinations. This policy is effective for both of our locations in Alexander City and Kellyton.

- We require all our patients to be vaccinated according to the schedules published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Existing patients who are not currently vaccinated according to the CDC schedule will have a minimum of one year from the effective date of this policy to catch up past immunizations if applicable and maintain timely vaccination.
- New patients who refuse all vaccines will be counseled on our Vaccination Policy.
  - Newborns must begin the vaccination schedule by their 2 month well visit or EPSDT.
  - Any other new patients must begin vaccination by their next well visit or EPSDT.
- There are a few specific medical reasons why certain vaccines may not be recommended for your child due to allergies or other health reasons to delay the vaccination.

We understand that individual beliefs and feelings may vary regarding vaccinations. It is our hope that all parents will understand each vaccine and embrace the importance of these vaccines to minimizing the risk of illness and the spread of deadly disease. We welcome questions and concerns that will open discussions to clarify the benefits of vaccinations.

If after these discussions a parent, guardian, or patient does not wish to comply with our Vaccination Policy the staff at Pediatric Associates will initiate the process necessary to transition the patient to another Primary Care Provider.