



Office Vaccine Policy

Here at "A Plus Pediatrics" we are committed to promoting the health and well-being of your child and we know without a doubt that every parent wants to do what is best for their child. The ability to prevent suffering is one of the things that means the most to us as pediatricians and pediatric providers. Today, most children in the United States lead much healthier lives and parents live with much less anxiety and worry over infections during childhood. Immunizations are one of the success stories of modern medicine. The science is overwhelming that vaccines are safe and effective. As such we do expect and require our patients to fully vaccinate according to the schedule and guidelines put out by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control because this protects your child/children and the community. We do want to acknowledge that there are concerns and some misinformation about vaccines and urge you to discuss these concerns during your child's well visit.

In the following, we would like to ensure that you are aware of those vaccines that we consider imperative for our patients and we would like to give a very brief description of the illness that the vaccine prevents and age that the doses are recommended in the pediatric population. Please note that although MCV and Hepatitis A vaccines are not required for school these illnesses are either so prevalent in our community or so dangerous that we are requiring it at our office. VIS safety sheets are available upon request or on our website www.apluspeditrics.com. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

By signing you are agreeing to vaccinate per our office vaccine policy

Patient Name _____

Parents Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Required vaccines at " A Plus Pediatrics"

___ **Diphtheria:** a bacteria that causes a thick coating in the back of the throat leading to breathing problems, possible heart failure and death. Dosage due: 2,4,6 and 15 months, then ages 4-6, 11 and 21. Comes in various forms (depends on age) our office uses the Pentacel, DTaP, and Tdap.

___ **Tetanus:** bacteria that causes painful stiffening of muscle. Causes inability to swallow. Death occurs in 1/5 infected. Infection occurs from open wound. Dosage due: 2,4,6 and 15 months, then ages 4-6, 11 and 21. Comes in various forms (depends on age) our office uses the Pentacel, DTaP, and Tdap.

___ **Pertussis:** Called whooping cough, a bacteria that can make it difficult to breathe. Can lead to pneumonia, brain damage and death. Dosage due: 2,4,6 and 15 months, then ages 4-6, 11 and 21. Comes in various forms (depends on age) our office uses the Pentacel, DTaP, and Tdap.

___ **Haemophilus influenzae type B (HIB):** Not to be confused with the flu; this is a bacteria that causes meningitis, pneumonia, infection in the blood and death. Dosage due: 2,4,6 and 15 months, comes in the Pentacel (combination vaccine) and as single vaccine (HIB).

___ **Polio:** A virus that can cause mild symptoms but can progress to causing paralysis and death. Vaccine given at Dosage due: 2,4,6 and 15 months (optional dose), then ages 4-6. Comes in various forms (depends on age) our office uses the Pentacel, IPV, Kinrix (DTaP/IPV)



___ **Pneumococcus:** This disease is caused by bacteria called Streptococcus pneumoniae. It causes ear infections, sinus infections, pneumonia, and even meningitis, making it very dangerous for children. Vaccine called PCV given at : 2,4,6 and 15 months.

___ **Rotavirus:** Rotavirus is contagious and can cause severe watery diarrhea, often with vomiting, fever, and abdominal pain, mostly in infants and young children. Can cause severe dehydration and death. Vaccine: Oral (liquid) dosage given at 2,4 and 6 months.

___ **Hepatitis B:** Virus that causes liver inflammation and possibly liver failure and death. Dosage given at: birth-1 month, 1-2 months and 6-9 months of age.

___ **Hepatitis A:** Virus that causes inflammation of the liver. Dosage: given 6 months apart between ages of 12-24 months.

___ **Measles:** Virus that causes fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and rash. It can lead to brain swelling, pneumonia and death. Dosage given: 12 months and age 4-6 as MMR or MMRV.

___ **Mumps:** A virus that causes fever, head and muscle aches, swelling of the salivary glands and tiredness. Can lead to meningitis and infertility. Dosage given: 12 months and age 4-6 as MMR or MMRV.

___ **Rubella:** A Virus that causes fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes. In pregnant women can cause miscarriage. Dosage given: 12 months and age 4-6 as MMR or MMRV.

___ **Varicella:** A virus that causes fever, and blistering rash. Can progress to inflammation in the brain, pneumonia and death. Dosage given: 12 months and age 4-6 as VZV or MMRV.

___ **Meningococcus:** Bacteria that can lead to meningitis (inflammation of brain and spinal cord) and death. Often Leads to deafness and brain damage. Dosage given: MCV Age 11 and 16 (may be given earlier depending if traveling to certain countries).

Recommended but not mandatory vaccines: These will be offered at time of visit if/when appropriate.

___ **Influenza:** virus that causes fever, body aches, headaches, cough and cold. Can lead to severe illnesses such as pneumonia and death. Dosage: yearly flu shot starting at age 6 months (first year of vaccine 2 doses given if under age9)

___ **HPV:** A virus that causes genital warts and can lead to cancer of the cervix, throat, penis, vagina and anus. Though it is mostly transmitted through sexual contact it can be spread by touch (not necessarily intercourse). This is the only vaccine so far that prevents cancer. Dosage given: 2 doses 6 months apart if started between ages 9-14. 3 doses required if vaccinating after age 15.

___ **Men B:** A bacteria that is a bit rarer but can cause severe and deadly meningitis especially in higher risk groups. Dosage given: 6 months apart starting at age 16

Side effects: Common reactions occur in about 1 out of 4 children and include local redness, tenderness or swelling as well as fever and rash. This can last 2-3 days. For MMR/Varicella the reaction can occur 7-14 days after the vaccine is given. Teenagers are more prone to fainting after vaccines. Rotavirus may cause temporary vomiting and diarrhea typically mild. More rare but severe reactions 1/1 million can occur and include seizure, nervous system reaction, severe allergic reaction or non-stop crying. Getting the disease is more likely than the risk of severe vaccine reaction.

Contraindications to vaccines can include a weakened immune system, certain gastrointestinal problems, blood transfusions, severe allergy to neomycin, streptomycin, polymyxin, or yeast. Another contraindication is a severe reaction to a vaccine.

