

Vaccination Policy for Patients and Families

Vaccines are among the most important ways we protect children from serious illness, disability, and death. We understand that parents want to make thoughtful choices and that sorting through vaccine information, opinion, and misinformation can be difficult. Our goal is to answer questions respectfully, share evidence-based guidance, and partner with families while upholding the vaccination standard that best protects all of our patients.

Princeton Nassau Pediatrics follows the current childhood and adolescent immunization schedule recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#). New families must agree to follow this schedule, or a PNP-directed catch-up plan when needed. Existing patients must stay on schedule or follow an approved catch-up plan. We welcome questions, but vaccination is a condition of ongoing care at PNP.

Why vaccination matters

- Vaccines are safe and effective at preventing serious disease.
- The recommended timing reflects years of study and data involving millions of children.
- Scientific evidence does not support claims that vaccines or ingredients such as thimerosal cause autism or other developmental disabilities.
- On-time vaccination protects your child and people too young or medically unable to be fully vaccinated.

What PNP requires

1. **On-schedule vaccination.** Patients must receive AAP-recommended vaccines based on age and medical need. At minimum, all immunizations required for New Jersey school or child-care attendance must be current for a child to remain a PNP patient.
2. **Complete records.** Families transferring to PNP must provide a complete immunization record before the first well visit. Sick visits will not be delayed solely because records have not arrived, but bring any record you have.
3. **Catch-up when needed.** A child who is behind must follow a plan established with a PNP physician. Infants must begin the routine primary series by 4 months, and the early-childhood series must be completed by age 2 unless a true medical contraindication prevents it.
4. **Alternative schedules.** Delaying or splitting vaccines is strongly discouraged because it offers no medical benefit and leaves a child unprotected longer. Rarely, a PNP physician may approve a limited split schedule, with at least two vaccines at each vaccination visit. PNP cannot accommodate one-vaccine-at-a-time schedules because they are logistically difficult, unnecessarily unpleasant for the child, and not medically beneficial.
5. **Medical exceptions.** PNP accepts only a true medical contraindication or exemption reviewed and documented by a PNP physician under AAP guidance.
6. **Religious beliefs and exemptions.** We respect every family's religious beliefs and right to make health care decisions. PNP does not accept religious exemptions from practice vaccination requirements; a school or child-care exemption does not change this policy. If your beliefs prevent required vaccination, PNP is not the right fit: new families should choose another practice, and existing patients must transfer care.

If a family does not meet this policy

We will answer questions, provide counseling, and document declined vaccines. Continued refusal or failure to follow an agreed catch-up plan will be reviewed through PNP's QA/QI process. After counseling and review, a family that remains noncompliant will receive 30 days' written notice to transfer care. For infants, care cannot continue beyond the 4-month visit if the primary series has not begun.

Questions

Please speak with your PNP physician with questions or concerns. We know vaccine decisions can feel overwhelming and are glad to discuss the benefits, risks, timing, and evidence behind our recommendations so you understand our guidance and policy.