

MY KID'S DOCTOR VACCINATION MINIMUM STANDARD POLICY



Statement of Intent: My Kid's Doctor (MKD) expects for all of its patients to be vaccinated.

Vaccinating patients against preventable diseases is a critical component of high-quality medical care. In order to provide excellent medical care and a safe medical home for all patients, My Kid's Doctor established a Vaccination Minimum Standard Policy.

While there is only one approved vaccine schedule, as provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP); if patients/parents are demonstrating a commitment to be vaccinated in accordance with the guidelines listed below, they may continue to be patients of our practice. An AAP "Refusal to Vaccinate" form must still be signed for any CDC Category A vaccine refused, even if not included in the MKD Vaccination Minimum Standard Policy.

Effective Date: September 1, 2017

Revised Date: July 11, 2019

POLICY: All My Kid's Doctor patients must be vaccinated according to the American Academy of Pediatrics endorsed vaccine schedule as per the guidelines provided within this policy.

- In order to remain in our practice, the expectations for **new patients** are:
 - To accept the vaccination minimum standard required by our policy
 - If joining MKD as a newborn, to begin the minimum standard vaccination schedule by the two-month well visit
 - If joining MKD at any other age, to begin timely vaccination by the next well visit
- For any **existing patient** who continues to refuse all vaccines, and who has no intention to comply with the vaccination minimum standard required by our policy, MKD will initiate the process necessary to smoothly transition the patient to another primary care practice.
- **Existing patients** who are slowly becoming compliant with the vaccination minimum standard required by our policy, and who show commitment to fully comply, shall remain in the practice as long as the below schedule is followed:
 - For patients age one year and older, catch-up vaccination must occur at least every six months.
 - For patients age less than one year, catch-up vaccination must occur at least every two months.
- **Existing patients** who are partially vaccinated, yet who still are resistant to completion of the vaccination minimum standard required by our policy, will be provided with the opportunity to begin the completion process by their next well visit.
- For patients who have a medical contraindication to a particular vaccine, their Primary Care Clinician will confirm and clearly document as to why the contraindication exists. Patients may be required to present a Specialist consult note to support the medical contraindication. Religious and philosophical exemptions will not be accepted.
- My Kid's Doctor will no longer be able to commit to being your pediatric health care provider, and will immediately initiate the process necessary to smoothly transition you to another primary care practice, in the following instances:
 - If at any time, patients/parents cannot commit to this vaccination minimum standard, with the exception of medical contraindication; or
 - If patient/parent notifies My Kid's Doctor of their decision to refuse vaccinations; or
 - If patient/parent refuses any CDC Category A vaccine **and** refuses to sign the AAP "Refusal to Vaccinate" form

MY KID'S DOCTOR VACCINATION POLICY

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS



Florida DOH School Requirements

Vaccine	By Age 2	By Age 6	Age 7-11 (catch up)	Age 12-18 (catch up)	Age 18+
DTaP	4 doses	5 doses	Tdap 1 dose	Tdap 1 dose	
Hepatitis B	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	2 doses	2 doses
Hib	4 doses				MCV4 1 dose
MMR	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses
PCV	4 doses				
Polio	3 doses	4 doses			
VZV	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses	

- **DTaP** - Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis
- **Hib** - Haemophilus Influenzae Type B
- **MMR** - Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- **PCV** - Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
- **VZV** - Varicella Vaccine
- **MCV4**- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine

MY KID'S DOCTOR VACCINATION EXEMPTION STATEMENT



We do understand that parents and families may have individual beliefs or personal feelings with regard to vaccination. While those families may not agree with our vaccine policy, we do ask that you respect our decision to ensure our patients receive the highest quality evidence based medical care.

Patients who refuse certain vaccines put themselves at unnecessary risk for major illnesses. Additionally, their decision puts our most fragile patients (newborn babies, patients with chronic illnesses, etc.) at risk as well.

Considering all the scientific evidence that supports the value and safety of vaccination and understanding the real risk of not immunizing all eligible children, we are committed to ensuring all children are immunized.

There are a few specific medical reasons why certain vaccines may not be recommended for your child (allergies to components). In those rare cases, we will honor a certified medical exemption. However, since most religions support vaccination, in good conscience, we cannot support religious exemptions.

It is our sincere hope that all parents will embrace the importance of vaccination and minimize the risk of illness from these deadly diseases. However if you feel you cannot commit to this expectation, then we will respect your right to identify an alternative pediatrician for your family.

If you have questions or need clarification, one of our clinicians will be happy to discuss this with you when you come in for your visit.

VACCINES: FACTS, MYTHS, AND MORE



Q: What is a vaccine?

A: A vaccine is a tiny amount of a killed or “purified” virus or bacteria that stimulates our immune system to build a protection against that particular disease.

Q: Is it safe for my child to receive a vaccine?

A: YES. Vaccines have been shown to prevent many dangerous infections and have relatively few side effects, the most common of which are fever and soreness at the injection site.

Q: Why are vaccines given to babies?

A: There are certain dangerous infections that can hurt children as early as the first few months of life.

Q: Is it safe to give more than one vaccine at a time?

A: YES. In fact, certain combination vaccines such as the MMR vaccine decrease the number of shots a baby needs to have.

Q: Can vaccines overload a child’s immune system?

A: NO. Vaccines only contain tiny amounts of viruses or bacteria compared to the large amount of germs a child comes into contact with every day on a regular basis. Therefore, a healthy child’s immune system should have no problem at all handling the vaccinations even when several vaccines are given during a single doctor visit.

Q: If all of the other children in the community are vaccinated, then why should I vaccinate my child?

A: Even though many children are vaccinated, diseases still exist. With increased international travel it is quite common for many diseases to be brought into our community. Not vaccinating leaves your child defenseless against these illnesses as well as increases the chance for your child to spread these diseases to other young or unvaccinated children.

Q: Can vaccines cause Autism?

A: NO. There have been numerous studies involving hundreds of thousands of children across three continents, all demonstrating that there is no relationship or link between any component of any vaccine and autism.

Q: Are there any risks from vaccine preservatives such as Thimerosal and Mercury?

A: NO. There is no evidence that thimerosal or mercury in vaccines has ever caused any harm to children. Nevertheless, as of 2001 thimerosal and mercury have been removed from vaccines and vaccines today contain little or no thimerosal or mercury.

VACCINES & PREVENTABLE DISEASES IN CHILDREN



Hepatitis A: This infection causes loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), bleeding problems, fever and headaches. It may cause prolonged weakness and serious illness in individuals already suffering from liver disease.

Hepatitis B: This infection can lead to vomiting, stomach pain, jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), permanent liver damage, liver cancer, cirrhosis and death. Approximately 25% of children who develop lifelong hepatitis B infection die of related liver disease as adults.

DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis): This vaccine works to prevent three infections.

- **Diphtheria** may cause a sore throat, suffocation, paralysis, heart failure, coma and even death. Before the vaccine, diphtheria caused more than 15,000 deaths in children each year.
- **Tetanus** causes severe muscle spasms (including the mouth and jaw), breathing problems, severe heart damage, lung infections, coma and death.
- **Pertussis** causes "Whooping Cough." It may lead to severe coughing, pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Pre-vaccine, over 200,000 cases and up to 9,000 deaths were reported each year.

Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae type b): This infection may lead to breathing problems, meningitis, blindness, brain damage, paralysis, hearing loss and death. Before the vaccine, Hib meningitis killed 600 children each year and left many other children with deafness, seizures and mental retardation.

Gardasil (HPV): Human papillomavirus will affect an estimated 75% to 80% of males in females in their lifetime. For most, HPV could cause significant consequences: cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in females. Other types could cause genital warts in males and females.

Influenza: This infection causes high fever, chills, severe muscle aches, headaches, pneumonia, swelling of the brain and death. There are still thousands of deaths every year in the U.S. from influenza related complications.

IPV (Polio): This infection leads to paralysis, difficulty breathing and death. Before the vaccine, 20,000 cases of polio were reported each year in the United States. Many children were left on crutches, in wheelchairs and on iron lungs.

Menactra (Meningococcal): This infection causes an inflammation of the protective layer around the brain and spinal cord. Meningococcal disease spreads like the flu, passing from person to person through everyday activities.

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella): This vaccine works to prevent three infections.

- **Measles** (rubeola) causes runny nose, cough, conjunctivitis, rash, pneumonia, ear infections, brain damage, seizures and death. It is estimated that if the measles vaccine were stopped, approximately 2.7 million people would die worldwide.
- **Mumps** causes swollen glands, headaches, deafness, brain damage, meningitis, swelling of the testicles and sterility in males.
- **Rubella (German Measles)** causes fever, rash, swollen glands, birth defects such as deafness, blindness, mental retardation and heart defects, and can cause miscarriage and premature birth in pregnant women. Prior to this vaccine rubella affected over 20,000 newborns over half of which were deaf and with many suffering from blindness and mental retardation.

Pevnar (Pneumococcus): This infection leads to ear infections, sinus infections, pneumonia, meningitis, sepsis (infection of the blood) and brain damage.

RotaTeq (Rotavirus): This infection may include fever, vomiting, upset stomach, and watery diarrhea that can last from 3 to 9 days, and can quickly lead to dehydration (loss of body fluids).

Varicella (Chicken Pox): This causes an itchy rash with many sores and may lead to lung damage, brain damage and death. Prior to this vaccine approximately 4 million people got chicken pox, causing 11,000 hospitalizations and 100 deaths each year.