



# Town Pediatrics, PC

Patricia F. Rappaport, MD, FAAP  
Sandra J. Groeber, MD, FAAP  
Louise J. Chamberlain, MD, FAAP  
Stephanie S. Konkus, MD, FAAP  
Fatema K. Buhkari, MD, FAAP  
Meghan E. Edwards, FNP-BC



Town Pediatrics Vaccine and Well Child Care Policy effective date 10/1/2023

To best protect our patients, our immunization policy has been updated. The policy was initially created due to concern about the growing risk of exposure to vaccine preventable diseases due to outbreaks of measles and pertussis in our immediate area. We remain concerned about that risk. As pediatricians, we must ensure that our office is a place that is as safe as possible for those children who cannot get vaccines (e.g., newborns or children with cancer or who have received organ transplants).

We strongly feel that childhood vaccines are safe and effective, and we strongly recommend use of the American Academy of Pediatrics vaccine schedule.

In the past we have worked with families who prefer to use an alternative vaccine schedule to the AAP schedule. We will continue to accept families who desire an alternative schedule; however, to ensure that we are applying our immunization policy fairly for all our patients, we are clarifying the policy:

**We do not accept patients who have not received and will not receive any vaccines.**

**We require all vaccines to be administered according to the AAP schedule. We will work with parents who prefer to use an alternative schedule with the following minimum requirements:**

- All patients need to have received at least one dose of all recommended vaccines by the age of 6 months.
- All patients need to be up to date per the AAP guidelines by the age of 2 years.
- All patients need to be up to date per the AAP guidelines by the age of 6 years.
- All patients need to receive a Tdap booster and meningococcal ACYW vaccine by age 13 years.
- All patients need to receive a meningococcal ACYW booster by 16 years.
- Patients who are behind in vaccination and wish to continue to receive care from us must meet with a provider within 30 days to create a catch-up schedule. If two consecutive "catch-up" vaccines are not completed, the patient will be released from our care.
- Note: Covid, Flu and HPV vaccines are exempt from stated policy.

<https://publications.aap.org/redbook/pages/Immunization-Schedules>

**We will also be adding a new policy for those patients who are being seen for sick only visits. Part of our commitment to providing quality care to our patients is ensuring that they receive recommended child care. This means that all patients need to have Well Child Care (WCC) exams according to the AAP schedule as follows:**

- At least six WCC appointments by the age of 18 months.
- One annual exam for children 2 years and over.
- Sick visit and consult appointments (no matter how extensive) are not considered WCC.

[https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity\\_schedule.pdf](https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/periodicity_schedule.pdf)

If a patient has not received vaccines per the above minimum requirements or they have not maintained routine well child visits according to the above guidelines, they will be reminded of our policy and asked to schedule a WCC and/or vaccine appointment. If after 3 months, a WCC has not been completed or a vaccination schedule consultation has not occurred within 30 days, we will no longer be able to provide care.

Sincerely,  
The Doctors at Town Pediatrics