

Blue Ridge
Pediatric & Adolescent
Medicine, Inc.

Blue Ridge Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine Vaccine Policy

We firmly believe in the effectiveness of vaccines to prevent serious illness and to save lives.

We firmly believe in the safety of our vaccines.

We firmly believe that all children and young adults should receive all of the recommended vaccines according to the schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We firmly believe, based on all available literature, evidence and current studies, that vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We firmly believe that thimerosal, a preservative that has been in vaccines for decades and remains in some vaccines, does not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

We firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers. The recommended vaccines and their schedule given are the results of years and years of scientific study and data gathering on millions of children by thousands of our brightest scientists and physicians.

The vaccine campaign is truly a victim of its own success. It is precisely because vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that we are even discussing whether or not they should be given. Because of vaccines, many of you have never seen a child with polio, tetanus, whooping cough, bacterial meningitis or even chickenpox, or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Such success can make us complacent or even lazy about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can only lead to tragic results.

We are making you aware of these facts not to scare you or coerce you, but to emphasize the importance of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one for some parents. We will do everything we can to convince you that vaccinating according to the schedule is the right thing to do. However, should you have doubts, please discuss these with your healthcare provider in advance of your visit. In some cases, we may alter the schedule to accommodate parental concerns or reservations. Please

be advised, however, that delaying or breaking up the vaccines to give one or two at a time over two or more visits goes against expert recommendations, and can put your child at risk for serious illness (or even death) and goes against our medical advice as providers. Such additional visits will require additional co-pays on your part. Furthermore, please realize that you will be required to sign a Refusal to Vaccinate form at each checkup visit.

Although we strongly support all recommended vaccines, there are four vaccine series that we must insist that our patients receive in a timely manner to remain in our practice. The minimal four vaccines include Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTap), Haemophilus influenza B (Hib), Pneumococcal Conjugate (Pevnar) and Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR).

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Thank you for your time in reading this policy, and please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about vaccines with any one of us.

WHAT WE EXPECT

-Meet Minimum Vaccine Requirement

DTaP: 3 doses by 12 months, 4 doses by 2 years, 5 doses by 6 years

Hib: 2 doses by 12 months, complete by 2 years

Pevnar: 3 doses by 12 months, complete by 2 years

MMR: 1 dose by 2 years, complete by 6 years

Tdap: 1 dose by 13 years

-Sign Vaccine Refusal form every time when vaccines are offered

-No phone advice if not fully vaccinated

-Parents must accompany the child at each visit for an alternative vaccine visit

-Any Alternative Vaccine Schedule must be on file and a copy of such brought to each visit

Patient's name

Patient's date of birth

Signature

Date

Printed name

Relationship to patient

Blue Ridge

Pediatric & Adolescent

Medicine, Inc.

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Blue Ridge Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine is dedicated to providing the best care that we can for our patients. We also want to help make our community safe and healthy. To that end, we believe vaccinations are a critical part of caring for our patients and protecting our entire community.

To achieve this goal effectively, we must be able to enter into a partnership based on mutual trust with the parents of our patients. We believe that immunizations are one of the most important health interventions a parent can provide for their children, and we want all of our patients to benefit.

While we recognize and respect the parents' role as the ultimate decision maker for their child's healthcare, we believe strongly that we are obligated to deliver the best and safest healthcare possible for our patients and our community. We feel professionally uncomfortable providing care both in the office and over the phone for children who will not receive at least a minimal set of vaccinations. These preventable diseases can and do cause severe illness, brain damage and death. Although we strongly support all recommended vaccines, there are four vaccine series that we must insist that our patients receive in a timely manner to remain in our practice.

The minimal four vaccines are: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Acellular Pertussis (DTaP); Haemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib); Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Pevnar).

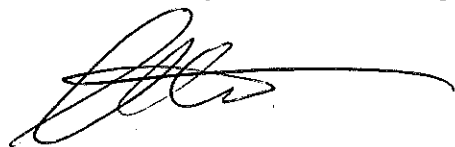
Starting January 1, 2015, all newborn patients at Blue Ridge Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine are expected to meet the following minimum vaccine requirements:

DTaP: 3 doses by 12 months, 4 doses by 2 years, 5 doses by 6 years
Hib: 2 doses by 12 months, complete by 2 years
Pevnar: 3 doses by 12 months, complete by 2 years
MMR: 1 dose by 2 years, complete by 6 years
Tdap: 1 dose by 13 years

For current patients who are not fully immunized, they will have one year to complete the minimum requirements for these four vaccines based on the "Catch Up" Immunization Schedule available at www.cdc.gov.

If you have any questions about this new policy, we would like to talk to you in person. Please make an appointment to discuss this with our primary care provider or plan to talk about this at your next well child visit.

On behalf of the partners at Blue Ridge Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine,



Gregory L. Adams, MD, FAAP ~ Lanny L. Monroe, MD, FAAP ~ J. Robert Lonas, MD, FAAP
W. Scott St. Clair, MD, FAAP ~ Clinton B. Zimmerman, MD, FAAP ~ Jane G. Eastman, PNP-C
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