



## Carolinus HealthCare System

### Arboretum Pediatrics – Vaccination Policy Statement

Dear valued patients and families,

Thank you for trusting us with your child’s health. We wish to work with you to protect your child. Vaccines have been an incredible public health achievement. Those of us who have been in practice over time have been astounded by the dramatic decreases in what were once common and sometimes devastating and deadly childhood diseases. Vaccines save millions of lives around the world every year.

At Arboretum Pediatrics, we firmly believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we perform as healthcare providers. As parents and caregivers for future generations, we trust that you share this belief.

We support and follow the recommended vaccine schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Below is the immunization schedule our practice uses and that we, as your health providers, strongly recommend for the care of your child. Please be advised that choosing to refuse, delay or “break up vaccines” goes against expert recommendations as well as our medical advice. We feel assured that you do not wish to put your child at risk for serious illness or even death.

Birth	Hepatitis B
2 months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP); Polio (IPV); Hepatitis B; Haemophilus Influenza B (HIB); Pneumococcal; Rotavirus
4 months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP); Hepatitis B; Haemophilus Influenza B (HIB); Pneumococcal; Rotavirus
6 months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP); Polio (IPV); Hepatitis B; Haemophilus Influenza B (HIB); Pneumococcal; Rotavirus
12months	Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR); Pneumococcal
15 months	Haemophilus Influenza B (HIB); Varicella
18 months	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP); Hepatitis A
2 years	Hepatitis A
4-6 years	Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR); Varicella; Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP); Polio (IPV)
10-12 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP); Meningococcal Meningitis; Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
14 years - College	Meningococcal Meningitis

Some of these vaccines are offered as combination vaccines or in oral varieties. Additionally, we do recommend the annual flu vaccine for all children 6 months of age or older.

Many conscientious parents have questions about the value and safety of vaccines. It's easy to forget that vaccine-preventable infections still pose a serious threat to children, even in the United States. The bacteria and viruses have not disappeared. The best and most reliable protection against these diseases is vaccination.

Modern vaccines are far safer and better tolerated than those used in the past. The strong scientific evidence is that vaccines do not cause autism, leukemia, cancer, or weaken immune systems, etc. Minor side effects such as swelling, redness, tenderness do occur, but serious side effects are very rare. It has been years since most of us have seen a child with a serious vaccine reaction. Many groups, including physicians and parents, are on constant look out for vaccine problems. If one is found or suspected, it is quickly addressed. We all expect vaccines to be safe and effective.

Skipping or delaying vaccines leaves young children vulnerable at the age when they are most susceptible to serious infections. Many well-meaning parents want to rely on "herd immunity" (vaccinations of most members of a group) to protect their unvaccinated children. The problem is that a child's "herd" changes all the time: play groups, daycare, school, college, church, work, sports teams, social activities, and travel. It is our sincere belief that being part of a "vaccinated herd" is a civic responsibility that not only protects your child, but helps protect others. Don't place your child or others at risk for infections that cause serious disease, seizures, mental retardation, blindness, deafness and death.

We, the providers at Arboretum Pediatrics, will educate you about the vaccines your child is receiving and we will allow patient to spilt up the number of vaccines into several nurse visits if a parent wishes, but we will not delay vaccines. Please discuss your concerns and schedule with your provider. We strongly believe in the importance of the vaccines recommended by the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) as they relate to your child's overall health. Parents that are not willing to start vaccinating by two months of age may be dismissed from our practice.

For other reliable information, ask your child's pediatrician or visit:

[www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

[www.cdc.org/vaccines](http://www.cdc.org/vaccines)

[www.immunizationinfo.org](http://www.immunizationinfo.org)

[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)

[www.cispimmunize.org](http://www.cispimmunize.org)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**Arboretum Pediatrics**