



Atrium Health

Charlotte Pediatric Clinic –Vaccine Policy Statement

Dear valued patients and families,

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 recommend 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 vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting intervention we can perform as health care providers, and that you can perform as parents/caregivers.

We want to emphasize the important of vaccinating your child. We recognize that the choice may be a very emotional one, and, for some parents, even controversial. 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 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 at Charlotte Pediatric Clinic.** Such additional visits will require additional co-pays on your part.

Finally, if you should absolutely refuse to create a plan by 2 months, initiate a vaccine plan by the 4 month visit and complete the primary series by the age of 2, we will ask you to find another healthcare provider who shares your views. Please recognize that by not vaccinating you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.

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.

Sincerely,

Your HealthCare Partners at
Charlotte Pediatric Clinic

Charlotte Pediatric Clinic – Older Child Vaccine Policy Statement

Dear valued patients and families,

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 vaccinating children and young adults may be the single more important health-promoting intervention we perform as health care providers and parents/caregivers.

Vaccines are so effective at preventing illness that many parents have never seen a child with bacterial meningitis or chicken pox or known a friend or family member whose child died of one of these diseases. Unfortunately, such success at preventing disease can make us complacent about vaccinating. But such an attitude, if it becomes widespread, can lead to tragic results and the re-emergence of preventable diseases.

In the pre-adolescent years, ages 10-12, it is recommended by the medical community and schools to give booster doses of varicella vaccine (if not done earlier), Tdap (pertussis and tetanus) and an initial booster dose of MCV4 (meningococcal meningitis). In addition, it is recommended, but not required, to initiate and complete the HPV vaccine series (human papillomavirus) between the ages of 9 and 26.

For new patients who are not vaccinated or incompletely vaccinated, we expect them to catch up on their complete vaccine series within the recommended time period of 12 months. By not vaccinating your child and boosting them in their pre-adolescent years, parents are putting their child and other children at unnecessary risk for life threatening illness, disability and even death as these diseases – varicella, meningococcal meningitis and pertussis – do occur each year in unvaccinated and under-vaccinated older children.

As medical professionals, we feel very strongly that vaccinating children and adolescents on schedule with current available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and teens. If you do not comply with the require childhood and adolescent vaccines, we will request that you find another health care provider. 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 your provider.

Sincerely,

Your HealthCare Partners at
Charlotte Pediatric Clinic