

# Vaccine Policy for Howard County Pediatrics, LLC

At Howard County Pediatrics, the health, safety, and well-being of our patients are our top priorities. To ensure that all children and adolescents in our care are protected from preventable illnesses, we adhere to the immunization schedules recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in conjunction with Immunology and Infectious Disease Experts. These schedules represent the most effective and scientifically supported guidelines for preventing severe diseases, disabilities, and deaths caused by vaccine-preventable illnesses.

## Vaccine Compliance Requirement

### 1. Required Immunizations

All patients must receive routine immunizations according to the AAP recommended schedules. This includes, but is not limited to, vaccines for:

- a. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- b. Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP)
- c. Polio
- d. Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib)
- e. Hepatitis B (HBV)
- f. Varicella (chickenpox/Var)
- g. Meningococcal (MCV4) and Pneumococcal diseases (PCV20)
- h. Other vaccines as indicated based on the child's age or medical needs.

### 2. Additional Recommendations

The immunization schedules developed by medical experts also incorporate additional guidance on COVID-19, RSV, Influenza, Hepatitis A, and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccines. Our providers strongly recommend these vaccines as well; however, parents do not have to consent to these to remain in compliance with our policy. Parents are encouraged to review these and discuss any questions or concerns with our providers.

# Vaccine Policy for Howard County Pediatrics, LLC

## 3. Medical Exemptions

We recognize that some children may have specific vaccine contraindications based on their individual medical conditions. These exemptions will only be accepted if properly documented by a licensed physician. Non-medical or philosophical exemptions are not accepted by this practice, in alignment with AAP recommendations prioritizing public health and safety.

## Policy on Non-Compliance

To create a safe environment for all patients, non-compliance with the immunization policy will result in exclusion from our practice. Specifically:

- Families who do not adhere to the recommended schedules, without valid medical exemptions, will be reminded of this policy (new families sign an acknowledgement statement when joining the practice).
- A 6-month grace period may be granted to help families comply. This period will allow time to schedule and receive any missed vaccinations. Continued non-compliance following this grace period will result in the patient being dismissed from the practice.

## Commitment to Education and Support

We believe in the importance of open and respectful communication with families. Our team is committed to:

- Educating parents/guardians about the benefits and safety of vaccines.
- Addressing concerns with evidence-based information.
- Offering guidance and resources to ensure timely vaccination for all children.

# **Vaccine Policy for Howard County Pediatrics, LLC**

## **Protecting the Community**

By maintaining strict adherence to this policy, we aim to protect not only individual patients but also the broader community. Vaccines reduce the risk of outbreaks, safeguard vulnerable populations, and support the well-being of all.

If you have questions about this policy or wish to review your child's vaccination records, please contact your child's provider.