



Weiss Pediatric Care

2201 Cantu Court, #117 Sarasota, FL 34232 | P: 941-552-8341 | F: 941-487-8025 | weisspediatriccare.com

Vaccine Statement

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 neither vaccines nor thimerosal 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 the published schedule 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.

Unfortunately, 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 successes can make us complacent about the need for vaccination. However, as such opinions are becoming more globally widespread, we are witnessing the resurgence of many of these diseases. This is already leading 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 try our best to address your concerns and doubts and help show you that vaccinating according to the recommended schedule is in the best interest of your child and the community as a whole.

Please understand 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. Doing these things also goes against our medical advice at Weiss Pediatric Care.

As medical professionals, we feel strongly that vaccinating children on schedule with currently available vaccines is absolutely the right thing to do for all children and young adults. Should you choose not to vaccinate your child, or wish to alter the recommended vaccination schedule, we advise you to choose another health care provider who shares your views.

We will gladly address any additional items you would like to discuss on an individual basis.



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IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Childhood immunization was one of the greatest advances in public health in the 20th century. It has saved millions of children and adults throughout the world from developing meningitis, encephalitis, brain damage, severe respiratory problems, poliomyelitis, paralysis, and other severe illnesses, which can require hospitalization or cause death. And to this day, childhood immunization remains a cornerstone of pediatric care and public health.

Immunizations are most effective when an entire community participates. In recent years, localized outbreaks of mumps, measles, whooping cough and polio have occurred in the United States in communities with low vaccination rates. When you immunize your child, you are not only protecting your child from serious disease but you are also helping to protect your entire family, your friends and your neighbors.

At Weiss Pediatric Care, we strongly believe in the importance of immunizations and fully support the childhood immunization schedule established by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Therefore, **our policy requires that every patient within our group receive the vaccinations listed below:**

By 12 months of age, your child will receive the following:

Type of Immunization

Hepatitis B	3 doses
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP)	3 doses
Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)	3 doses
Haemophilus Influenza (HIB)	4 doses
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (Prevnar)	4 doses
Varicella Vaccine (Chicken Pox)	1 dose
Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)	1 dose

At 15 months, your child will receive this vaccine:

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP)	4 th dose
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At 4 years, your child will receive these vaccines:

- A fifth dose of **DTaP**
- A fifth dose of **IPV**
- A second dose of **MMR**
- A second dose of **Varicella (Chicken Pox)**

At 11 years, your child will receive these vaccines:

- 1 dose of Meningococcal Vaccine
- 1 dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertusis (**Tdap**)
- 1 dose of HPV Vaccine (Gardasil), followed by additional doses 2 and 6 months later

At 16 years, your child will receive this vaccine:

- 1 booster dose of Meningococcal Vaccine

At 19 years, your child will receive this vaccine:

- 1 booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertusis (**Tdap**)

In addition, we highly recommend (but do not require) the following vaccinations:

- Hepatitis A:** 2 doses, beginning at 15 months of age
- Influenza Vaccine:** 2 doses first year received and 1 dose annually

We are aware of the concerns about vaccine safety that have been voiced by a very small yet vocal minority. These claims have no scientific or statistical basis. To date, there have been over 30 scientific studies, which have proven, conclusively, that vaccines are safe.

By signing, I understand and agree to follow Weiss Pediatric Care's Immunization Policy by completing all required vaccines in accordance with the timing and schedule published by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and noted above.

Patient Signature (Over 18)/Parent/Guardian

Date