



We recognize that there is much talk about vaccines in the news and in social media nowadays that has raised parents' concerns about immunizing their children. However, **there is no scientific link between vaccines and autism** or any other issues claimed by the anti-vaccine crowd. Thus, **we feel it necessary to take a firm stand** on the vaccine policies in our practice. **NO POLITICS PLEASE:** These CDC recommendations are **based on medical science**, not urban myths.

Why do we not allow an alternate vaccine schedule?

Many studies have shown that the **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended vaccine schedule** at <https://publications.aap.org/redbook/pages/Immunization-Schedules> is **both safe and effective**. There are NO studies supporting a slower schedule. We want our patients to be **protected as soon as possible** against these preventable illnesses. Delaying vaccines only increases the time that children are susceptible to deadly diseases.

For those who are worried that there are too many vaccines given too soon and they will overwhelm the immune system, this fear is simply unfounded. **The AAP schedule has been shown to be safe, JUST AS IT WAS SAFE WHEN YOUR PARENTS HAD YOU VACCINATED SOME 20-40 YEARS AGO** (Go ask your mother). Children with delayed schedules are actually subjected to more stress than when vaccines are given together. Separating vaccines also requires more visits to our office, which can expose children to even more illnesses, and unnecessarily increases the cost of healthcare.

What if we've missed doses of vaccine?

If a newborn did not get the Hepatitis B vaccine in the hospital for whatever reason, we will give it at the first office visit and continue on the rest of the vaccine schedule. Hopefully the RSV vaccine was given to you during Mom's pregnancy, but if not, we can give it to your baby in our office based on seasonal availability.

What are the legal requirements?

If you want to know state requirements for daycare and schools, please refer to the **RI Department of Health** at Health.RI.gov. Unless you plan to home-school, please realize that, **sooner or later, your child will be required to receive these vaccines anyway**. But even then, our practice still requires full vaccination, and we do not give medical or religious exemptions.

We require all patients to follow the recommended **AAP vaccine schedule** unless they have any of the following issues:

- A documented and specific chronic illness that precludes vaccination.
- Fever or significant illness within the previous 24 hours prior to scheduled vaccine. It is still recommended to vaccinate with a mild illness, or we will need to reschedule the vaccine.
- A documented, severe allergy to one of the components of the vaccine. Minor allergies to eggs may require observation after vaccination, but the vaccine may still be given.
- Immune suppression in the patient or caregiver that precludes vaccination. Most often, it is better to vaccinate all people around an immune compromised person to help protect them against the vaccine preventable diseases. This includes only the live virus vaccines such as Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR), Varicella, and FluMist.
- The only vaccines that are excluded from this policy are seasonal **Flu and COVID**. But please consider this: In order to **protect YOUR FAMILY, OURSELVES, and OUR FAMILIES**, each one of our office staff is fully vaccinated every year against both Flu and COVID. Dr. Concannon has issues of decreased immunity due to his arthritis meds. **Please help protect us, everyone else in our waiting rooms, your school, and the general public by fully immunizing your child.**

If You Will Not Vaccinating Your Infant or Child

If you do not plan on having your infant or child vaccinated according to the recommended AAP vaccine schedule and as required for daycare and school entry, and by this practice policy, **you will need to find a different health care provider**.