

Dunkirk Family Practice, PA Pediatric Vaccine Policy

1. Purpose

At Dunkirk Family Practice, we are committed to protecting the health of our patients, their families, and our community. This policy outlines our vaccination standards for children and aligns with the immunization schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

2. Our Commitment to Pediatric Health

Vaccines are a safe, evidence-based, and essential part of preventive pediatric care. Following the CDC-recommended vaccine schedule is one of the most effective ways to safeguard children against serious, preventable diseases such as measles, polio, whooping cough, and meningitis.

3. Our Vaccine Policy for Pediatric Patients

A. Required Vaccines

Dunkirk Family Practice follows the CDC's **childhood immunization schedule**, which includes (but is not limited to):

- **Hepatitis B**
- **Rotavirus**
- **DTaP** (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)
- **Hib** (Haemophilus influenzae type b)
- **PCV** (Pneumococcal conjugate)
- **IPV** (Polio)
- **MMR** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- **Varicella (Chickenpox)**
- **Meningococcal ACWY and B** (as recommended for adolescents)

We also recommend **Hepatitis A, HPV (Human Papilloma), COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations** in accordance with CDC age-specific guidance.

B. New Patient Policy

Effective June 15, 2025, **Dunkirk Family Practice will no longer be accepting new pediatric patients whose parents or guardians choose not to follow the CDC's immunization schedule** without a valid medical exemption.

This decision reflects our responsibility to maintain a safe clinical environment for all children, including those who are medically vulnerable and cannot receive vaccines themselves.

C. Medical Exemptions

We recognize that some children may have legitimate medical conditions that contraindicate certain vaccinations. These exemptions must be documented and signed by a licensed healthcare provider and will be evaluated by our clinical team.

D. Alternative Schedules

We do not support the use of non-standard or significantly delayed alternative vaccine schedules. Vaccines are administered at the intervals recommended by the CDC unless a documented medical reason requires modification.

4. Vaccine Education and Communication

We strive to maintain an open and respectful dialogue with all families. During visits, our pediatric providers will:

- Review your child's vaccination status
- Provide CDC Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)
- Discuss the benefits and risks of vaccines
- Address any questions or concerns you may have

5. Record Keeping

Dunkirk Family Practice maintains complete, up-to-date immunization records for all pediatric patients. You may request copies of these records at any time through our patient portal or front desk.

6. Policy Review and Updates

This policy is reviewed annually and revised as needed to reflect updates from the CDC and other public health authorities. We will notify families of any major changes through our website, patient portal, and printed materials.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL THE TERMS OF THIS POLICY AND MY SIGNATURE BELOW ATTESTS THAT I FULLY UNDERSTAND EACH ITEM AND AGREE TO THE TERMS ABOVE.

Signature_____Date_____

Patient Name_____DOB_____

Witness_____Date_____

Printed Name_____Date_____