

## Bluebird Kids Health Policy on Childhood Vaccinations

At Bluebird Kids Health, we believe in the safety, effectiveness, and importance of childhood vaccinations. As pediatric clinicians, we are strong advocates of preventive medicine and protecting children before illness occurs. Vaccinations play a vital role in keeping children healthy and in preventing serious illness, suffering, and even death.

As parents ourselves, we follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) vaccination schedule for our own children because we trust the science and see the benefits firsthand – for our kids, our families, and our communities. We strongly recommend that every child in our care follows this same evidence-based schedule. The Bluebird Kids Health vaccine schedule – which is consistent with the AAP's recommendations – is as follows:

Age	Vaccines Due
1 Week	Hepatitis B #1 (if not previously given in hospital)
2 Months	DTAP, HIB, IPV, Hepatitis B, PCV, Rotavirus
4 Months	DTAP, HIB, IPV, Hepatitis B, PCV, Rotavirus
6 Months	DTAP, HIB, IPV, Hepatitis B, PCV, Rotavirus
12 Months	MMR, Varicella, PCV13, Hepatitis A
15 Months	DTAP, HIB
18 Months	Hepatitis A
4 Years	MMRV, DTAP/IPV
9-10 Years	HPV (2)
11-12 Years	Tdap, MCV4
16 Years	MCV4, Bexsero (Meningococcal B vaccination)
18-21 Years	Tdap

In addition, we recommend Beyfortus (Nirsevimab) for RSV during RSV season for infants under 6 months of age whose mother did not get vaccinated for RSV during pregnancy, as well as for older infants at high risk; influenza vaccines during flu season for all infants and children over 6 months of age; and COVID vaccines as recommended for the child's age group.

We are committed to educating our families about vaccines and ensuring informed consent, and we believe decisions about a child's health should be guided by open discussion between the child's parents and clinician. Our clinicians are always willing to answer questions and work with families who wish to learn more or who need to adjust

timing within a reasonable window to ensure their children are protected as soon as possible.

Many of the children we care for are newborns who cannot yet be fully vaccinated or children with other medical conditions that make them especially vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases. Maintaining a safe environment for these patients means ensuring that all children in our care are appropriately vaccinated to reduce the spread of preventable illness.

At a minimum, all Bluebird Kids Health patients must meet the school immunization requirements of the state in which they live. Florida's current requirements are as follows:

Vaccine	By Age 2	By Age 6	Age 7 - 11 (catch-up)	Age 12-18 (catch-up)	Age 18+
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	2 doses	2 doses
<b>DTaP/Tdap</b> (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis / Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis)	4 doses	5 doses	Tdap 1 dose	Tdap 1 dose	
<b>Hib</b> (Haemophilus Influenzae Type B)	4 doses				
<b>Polio</b>	3 doses	4 doses			
<b>PCV</b> (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine)	4 doses				
<b>MMR</b> (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses
<b>VZV</b> (Varicella Vaccine)	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	2 doses	
<b>MCV4</b> (Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine)					1 dose

In addition to these minimum requirements, we also require patients of our practice (new and existing) that are behind on their vaccinations agree to work in good faith with our clinicians to catch up to at least the minimum vaccination schedule. The youngest children are often the most vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases, so it is imperative we work to protect them at as an early an age as possible. It is within this framework that we also require the following of our patients:

- Patients under one year of age who are "under-vaccinated" must have a catch-up vaccine at least every two months; and

- Patients between one and two years of age who are “under-vaccinated” must have a vaccine at least every six months to meet the “By Age 2” requirements described above.

We recommend following the AAP Vaccination Schedule as it is both safe and effective. If a family wishes to follow a different schedule that meets the state’s school vaccination requirements and our other minimum requirements, they must work with their child’s clinician to clearly document and adhere to this schedule to decrease the potential for confusion and avoid either missed or duplicated vaccines.

If a parent chooses not to vaccinate their child at all (except in cases where the child has a medical contraindication such as a documented allergy to a vaccine or a vaccine’s components), we respectfully recommend that they seek care with a pediatrician whose approach is more aligned with their beliefs. If the child’s parents are unwilling to work with our clinicians in good faith toward meeting our minimum requirements, we will assist the family in transitioning their child’s care to a different practice.