



Joshua Coleman, MD • Aaron Hanna, MD • Josh Lane, MD •
George Lazari, MD • Barbara Leverett, MD • Jennifer Massey, MD
Jennifer Mote, MD • Clark Newton, MD • Matthew Threadgill, MD

1245 Augusta West Pkwy • Augusta, GA 30909

Immunization Policy

At APA, caring for your children is our humbling privilege. We know that you want the absolute best for your child. We understand that you are entrusting us to partner with you as you make decisions about how to care for your child, and we take that responsibility seriously.

This partnership includes your decisions about vaccines. We understand that there is conflicting information about vaccines in the news and social media. As physicians, we rely on sound scientific data to provide the best medical care. Our advice about vaccines is no exception. We firmly believe the overwhelming evidence that vaccines are safe, effective, and save lives. We say this without hesitation. Therefore, we adhere to the vaccine schedule endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). We do not recommend breaking up, spreading out, or altering this schedule in any way. If you have concerns, we will discuss those on an individual basis, but please know that altering the schedule puts your child at higher risk of serious illness, or even death, and contradicts our medical advice.

Vaccines keep your child safe. They also keep our community safe. If even a small number of children in the community do not have vaccines, diseases can reach epidemic levels, risking serious life-altering or life-ending infections. Our pediatric office should be a place that is as safe as possible for *all* of our patients, many of whom are particularly vulnerable to vaccine preventable diseases. Therefore, to remain in our practice, we insist on the following minimum vaccination schedule. This in no way implies that we think other vaccines are of lesser importance for *your* child, but that we have to think of and protect *all* children that we care for. If you cannot agree to this request, we will respectfully ask that you seek care elsewhere.

DTaP	<i>Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis</i>	Start by 4 months	3 doses by 12 months	4th dose by 2 years	5th dose by 6 years
Hib	<i>Haemophilus Influenza b</i>	Start by 4 months	3 doses by 12 months	Complete by 2 years	
PCV15	<i>Pneumococcal</i>	Start by 4 months	3 doses by 12 months	Complete by 2 years	
MMR	<i>Measles/mumps/Rubella</i>	1 dose by 18 months	Complete by 6 years		
TdaP	<i>Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis -booster</i>	1 dose by 13 years			

MenACWY	<i>Meningococcal</i>	1 dose by 13 years			
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In addition, if your child is not up to date per AAP guidelines on all vaccines:

- Due to higher risks for serious illnesses in unvaccinated children, you may not be eligible for phone triage. If you have concerns about your child, we will likely need to see him or her in the office to best care for them;
- You will be asked to sign a vaccine refusal form for each recommended vaccine at each visit vaccines are offered;
- We will not sign any vaccine exemption forms unless there is a documented medical contraindication.

As your child's doctors, we want the best for your child. Vaccines are safe, save lives, and keep children healthy. This is important for your child. It is important for your community. Our desire is to continue to care for your child and to provide the safest possible environment for all of our patients, including your family. We want to work together with you to provide the best medical care.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to discuss those with us.

The physicians of APA