

Gilbert Pediatrics Vaccine Policy: May 2020  
We will follow the recommended schedule for our patients

The single greatest success story in medical history in the past 100 years has been the development and use of vaccines to save lives and prevent complications of severe infectious diseases. Some illnesses have been completely eradicated because of wise vaccine policy around the world while others are held in check to keep our children alive, healthy and smiling!

Recommended immunizations in the rigorously-studied schedule are safe and effective, however vaccine opponents spread misinformation that can scare parents who are trying to do what's best for their child(ren). We have accommodated these fears over many years by not requiring our patients' adherence to the schedule, at the same time providing strict warnings about the life threatening consequences of vaccine preventable diseases. We care deeply for our patients and we sincerely worry for those who are less than fully immunized.

Our pediatricians and nurse practitioners have children of our own (and grandchildren) with underlying medical conditions such as Autism, Autoimmune Disease, ADHD, Developmental Delay, malignancy, and other challenges. They are all immunized according to the recommended schedule. Why? Because we know they are life-saving and safe.

Myth: Vaccines cause Autism - After one study in 12 patients in England showed a link between MMR and Autism, over 20 studies looking at hundreds of thousands of kids in multiple different countries proved the original study false and later fraudulent and the author of that study lost his license to practice medicine.

Question: Is my child receiving too many vaccines at a time? Our immune systems respond to trillions of viruses, bacteria, antigens, and immunological components every single day to keep us safe. There are only 160 antigens in all vaccines in the recommended schedule from birth to age five. And that's actually fewer antigens than were in vaccines fifty years ago. However, today we are able to protect against many more illnesses, because the vaccines are more specifically focused and refined.

Myth: "Alternative Vaccination Schedule" There is no such thing. There is only one recommended schedule. There are books, articles, and movies about delaying or refusing to receive vaccines; however they are not based on any scientifically researched, proven facts.

Fact: Having unimmunized and under-immunized children in our practice puts our other patients at risk, especially those vulnerable kids with underlying medical conditions.

As of this date, Gilbert Pediatrics will follow the recommended schedule with all of our patients. Only those with a true contraindication to a vaccine will be exempted from following policy. Parents who choose not to follow the schedule will need to choose another office for their children's medical care. Influenza and HPV vaccines are optional under this policy although we continue to strongly recommend them.