



VACCINE POLICY

Vaccines are safe, effective, and essential in preventing serious illness and saving lives. We follow the vaccine schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for all children and young adults.

Extensive research involving millions of children has shown that vaccines do not cause autism, developmental disabilities, or infertility. Thimerosal, a preservative previously used in some vaccines but no longer included in those we administer, has also been shown not to cause developmental harm. The recommended vaccine schedule is based on years of scientific study and is designed to protect children at the ages when they are most vulnerable. Delaying or spacing out vaccines goes against expert recommendations and leaves children at increased risk. Receiving multiple vaccines at one visit is safe and does not overwhelm the immune system.

Because vaccines have been so successful, many families have never seen diseases such as polio, whooping cough, or bacterial meningitis. These diseases still exist and can return when vaccination rates decline.

We do not accept new patients who do not follow the AAP-recommended vaccine schedule. Influenza (flu), HPV, and COVID vaccines are strongly recommended but remain optional and are the only exceptions to this policy.

Please speak with any of the providers at Litchfield County Pediatrics if you have questions, concerns, or would like to discuss this policy further. We are committed to partnering with you to protect the health of your child and our community.