



Boston Children's Health Physicians New York & Connecticut

Patient Vaccine Policy

Effective 1/7/2026

Boston Children's Health Physicians, LLP ("BCHP") firmly believes in the effectiveness and importance of vaccines in preventing serious illness, disability, and death. Vaccinating children and teens to prevent them from acquiring life-threatening diseases is one of the most important services we offer our patients. Vaccines remain among the most effective public health tools ever developed. Decades of scientific research, ongoing safety monitoring, and real-world experience have demonstrated that vaccines are both safe and highly effective. Since the introduction of modern immunization programs, millions of lives have been saved worldwide, and countless cases of serious illness have been prevented.

The recommended childhood immunization schedule, supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and other leading medical organizations, is the result of years of careful scientific study involving millions of children and the work of thousands of physicians and scientists. This schedule is designed to provide protection at the safest and most effective times in a child's development.

Based on available medical evidence, vaccines do not cause autism or other developmental disabilities.

While many vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, polio, whooping cough, meningitis, tetanus, and varicella—may seem rare, they continue to pose serious risks. Vaccination programs are only effective when high levels of community immunization are maintained. Immunization rates in our country have dipped dangerously low in some areas. When vaccination rates decline, outbreaks can and do occur, placing children and vulnerable individuals at risk of severe illness, long-term complications, or death.

BCHP has an important responsibility to protect our families and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. BCHP also has an important responsibility to protect every patient in our practices, including infants who are not yet fully immunized and patients with weakened immune systems due to serious medical conditions. We cannot accept the risk that unimmunized or under-immunized patients pose to others in our care.

Any concerns regarding vaccines can be discussed with your healthcare provider. Delaying vaccines or “breaking up” the recommended immunization schedule by administering vaccines one or two at a time goes against expert recommendations and may place children at unnecessary risk for serious illness.

Finally, unless special, valid medical justifications or other exemptions permitted by law for not vaccinating your child can be proven, as determined by our practice, we will ask you to find another health care provider if you refuse to vaccinate your child.

Our recommendation is to contact your insurance carrier to find a new physician. Please recognize that by not vaccinating, you are putting your child at unnecessary risk for life-threatening illness and disability, and even death.