

IMMUNIZATIONS

Georgia law requires that all children (up to 19 years) entering school must be age-appropriately immunized according to the rules and regulations established by the Department of Human Resources (DHR). Children are now required to be age-appropriately immunized against each of the following diseases:

Hepatitis A & B	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Pertussis	Varicella
Haemophilus Influenza Type B		Polio	Measles	Mumps
	Rubella	Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV)		

All students regardless of grade and including foreign exchange students must have the Georgia DHR Immunization Certificate Form 3231 on file.

Georgia law allows for two types of exemptions from the immunization requirements:

1. **Medical Exemption:** Immunizations conflict with the student's current or past medical history – this must be marked on the Certificate of Immunization by a physician (**must be reviewed and renewed annually by the physician**).
2. **Religious Exemption:** Immunizations conflict with the student's parent/guardian religious beliefs – the parent/guardian must give the school a signed and dated notarized statement or affidavit stating that the immunizations are against their religious beliefs.

When a child first enrolls, the school can allow the parent/guardian 30 calendar days to get a valid certificate, affidavit or religious exemption pursuant to Georgia law.

It is the school's responsibility to recommend that children who are not immunized against certain illnesses be excluded from school if an outbreak of that particular illness occurs, i.e. measles, etc.). In this situation, please notify and consult with the Office of Student Health Services.

A certificate for a child who is in the process of receiving all required vaccines must have a date of expiration that relates to the due date of the next required immunization or the date on which a medical exemption must be reviewed. A new certificate must then be obtained and submitted to the school within 30 days after the expiration date. Children whose parents fail to renew the certificate within the time allotted will not be permitted to attend school until the updated certificate is submitted.

Effective July 1, 2007, all children attending school are required to meet the following new vaccine requirements:

- Student immunization status should be updated annually as needed in SASI.
- Student Health Services staff can access the State's Immunization System (GRITS) upon request to assist schools in resolving specific immunization concerns/issues.
- A new entrant refers to any child entering any school or facility in Georgia for the first time or after having been absent from a Georgia facility for more than 12 months or one school year. A new entrant will need to be up-to-date on all the required vaccines. The term "new entrant" does NOT apply to children who simply move from one Georgia County to another, or one school system to another in Georgia.
- There are two new vaccines required:
 - Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) is required for all children less than 5 years of age who are attending childcare facilities, Head-start, or pre-K programs.
 - Hepatitis A vaccine or serologic proof of immunity is required for all children born on or after January 1, 2006 and who are enrolled in school or any of the above facilities or programs.
- There are additional doses added to two existing vaccine requirements for children entering Kindergarten, 6th grade or new entrants into any grade (K-12).

- Mumps – 2nd dose required or serologic proof of immunity
- Varicella – 2nd dose required or healthcare provider documentation of disease history or proof of serologic immunity