

## Student Health Services: Immunization Update

### Important Immunization Information for the 2020-2021 School Year

Many aspects of life have changed or been postponed due to COVID-19. There is a natural apprehension about taking children to doctors' offices currently but it is important that children continue to receive their immunizations and other medical appointments on time. Immunizations protect children and boost their immune systems before exposure to potentially life-threatening diseases. Any disruption of immunization services, even for short periods, will result in a higher likelihood of vaccine-preventable illnesses. We encourage you to contact your Health Care Provider to schedule appointments to ensure your child is updated on immunizations and medical appointments. Please know that all Health Care Providers' offices are taking special precautions to ensure a safe clinical environment and to keep everyone protected. Additionally, if you have any questions regarding your child's immunizations, please consult with your Health Care Provider.

### Georgia's Immunization Schedule and Requirements

For information regarding Georgia's Immunization Schedule and Requirements for school, please go to this website: <https://dph.georgia.gov/Vaccinate-teens#Back%20to%20School> or call 1-800-848-3868.

### MCV4 Booster for Rising Eleventh Graders

Effective July 1, 2021, all students entering or transferring into the 11th grade will need proof of a meningococcal booster (MCV4), unless their first dose was received on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. This requirement was initially scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2020. However, due to COVID-19, the Georgia Department of Public Health extended the implementation date.

### Verification of Required Vaccinations

Please check to make sure your student has all required vaccinations even if the certificate is marked complete. If the Certificate is marked complete and the child does not have the required vaccines, he/she must return to their Health Care Provider or public health center to receive the required vaccines and be issued a new/updated certificate.

### Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization

The Georgia Department of Public Health has developed an Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization Form 2208 for use by all new students enrolling in a Fulton County School who wish to submit a religious exemption. Use the following to access the form:

[https://dph.georgia.gov/search?search=religious+objection&sm\\_site\\_name=dph](https://dph.georgia.gov/search?search=religious+objection&sm_site_name=dph)

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure the health and safety of our students which is our top priority.