HOP to IT!

Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule

Immunize Georgia

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
STATE OF GEORGIA
CONSTITUTIO
1776

Common Questions About Immunization & Childhood Diseases

What Are Immunizations?

- Immunizations, also called vaccinations or shots, are a form of medicine made to protect people against many preventable diseases. These medicines are usually given by injection (shot). If your child is not properly immunized and gets one of these diseases, severe illness may result, which can cripple or even cause the death of your child.

When To Immunize?

- Children begin vaccinations at birth. Children will need several vaccinations during their first 12-18 months of life and at different times for the rest of their lives.

Where Can My Child Be Immunized?

- Call your health care provider's office or local public health clinic to find out the time and place to get your child immunized.

How Do I Pay For Immunizations?

- Many health insurance plans, including Medicaid and PeachCare, cover the cost of immunizations. If your health insurance plan does not cover immunizations, check to see if your health care provider offers the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. VFC is a federally funded program that provides vaccines to local doctors and public health clinics for children who meet required guidelines.

Why Immunize Your Child?

- Immunizing your child will help protect him/her from these harmful diseases:
  - Hepatitis B
  - Hepatitis A
  - Diphtheria
  - Tetanus (lockjaw)
  - Pertussis (whooping cough)
  - *H. influenza* type b disease (Hib)
  - Polio
  - Measles
  - Mumps
  - Rubella (German measles)
  - Varicella zoster (chickenpox)
  - Pneumococcal disease
  - Influenza ("flu")
  - Meningococcal disease
  - Rotavirus disease
  - Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- These diseases can result in breathing problems, liver, lung and brain damage, heart problems, blindness, deafness, cancer and even death. All of these diseases, except tetanus, are spread from person to person. Child care centers, schools and colleges require students to be up-to-date with their vaccinations.

Where Can I Find A Record Of My Child's Immunizations?

- Contact your health care provider. Georgia providers submit immunization records to the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS). GRITS maintains immunization records in a computer database, regardless of when or where in Georgia the shots were administered.

Who Should Be Immunized?

- Every child should be fully immunized.
- Immunizing your children will protect them against harmful diseases. (See the immunization schedule for a complete list of recommended vaccinations.)

Are Immunizations Safe?

- The risk of getting a disease by not being vaccinated is far greater than the chance of problems from the vaccine itself. It is important to remember that all vaccines are tested many times to ensure they are safe for your child.

Are There Any Common Side Effects To Immunizations?

- Common side effects may include a slight fever or redness, tenderness and swelling at the site of vaccination for a day or two. These side effects are mild and may not appear with each immunization. You should discuss any health concerns you may have with your doctor or public health clinic staff.
- If you feel your child has had an unusual or severe side effect to an immunization, contact your health care provider for immediate evaluation and attention, and request they file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) report at 1-800-822-7967.

Can My Child Be Immunized Even If He/She Is Sick?

- A minor illness should not prevent your child from being immunized. Talk to your doctor or public health clinic.

What If My Child Misses Some of His/Her Immunizations?

- You should never skip a scheduled immunization appointment for your child. But if you do miss an immunization, your doctor or health care clinic can put your child on a "catch-up" schedule. Always keep an up-to-date immunization record for your child. Ask your doctor or public health clinic to review your child's record at each visit and to tell you when the next vaccination is needed.

How To Keep On Track!

- Begin your child's immunizations on time. Hepatitis B can be given at birth and other vaccines start at 6 weeks of age.
- Never miss a chance to get your child immunized.
- Have your doctor or nurse review, update and enter each immunization given into the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS).
- Keep a record of your child's immunizations and take it with you when you visit your doctor or public health clinic.
- If you do not have a record, ask your provider to check GRITS.
- Mark the due date of your child's next vaccination and stay on schedule.
- Talk with your doctor or nurse about each vaccine. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Be careful to review all vaccine facts that you receive before your child is immunized.

How To Comfort Your Child.

- Stay Calm – Your child can sense if you are nervous or upset.
- Talk Quietly – Speak in a soothing, quiet voice to comfort your child.
- Hold Your Child – Being close to you will comfort your child.
- Preoccupy Your Child – Try to distract your child with other things such as singing or playing a game.
- Bring a Toy – A toy or special item from home can help calm your child.
- Allow Your Child To Cry – It's a normal response.
- Be Truthful – Don't tell your child it won't hurt.

When to Immunize

(Vaccines are listed by the age and age range they are to be given)

*Each frog equals one dose.

Age	Hep B (Hepatitis B)	DTaP/Tdap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	Hib (Haemophilus influenza type B)	Polio	PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate)	RV (Rotavirus)	MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella)	Varicella (Chickenpox)	Hep A (Hepatitis A)	MCV4 (Meningococcal Conjugate)	Influenza	HPV (Human Papillomavirus)
Birth												
1 Month												
2 Months												
4 Months												
6 Months			[1]			[6]						
12-18 Months		15-18 months	12-15 months		12-15 months		12-15 months	12-15 months	2 doses			
19-23 Months	Catch-Up[3]	Catch-Up[3]	Catch-Up[3] (to 5 years)	Catch-Up[3]	Catch-Up[3,5] (to 5 years)		Catch-Up[3]	Catch-Up[3]				
24-47 Months									Catch-Up[3] Recommended for children at risk who are 2 years of age and older if not previously vaccinated.	[5]	[2] 6 months – 18 years (given for each flu season)	
4-6 Years												
7-10 Years		Catch-Up[3]		Catch-Up[3]			Catch-Up[3]	Catch-Up[3]				
11-12 Years		[4]										3 doses
13-14 Years		Catch-Up[3,4] (Tdap/Td)								Catch-Up[3]		Catch-Up[3]
15 Years												
16-18 Years												

This schedule was adapted from the immunization schedule published by the Immunization Action Coalition and the recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

1. Your infant may not need a dose of Hib vaccine at 6 months of age depending on the brand of vaccine that your health care provider uses.
2. A child that is younger than 9 years and getting vaccinated against influenza for the first time should get two doses spaced at least four weeks apart.
3. Vaccinations delayed or missed entirely should be given as soon as possible.
4. One dose of Tdap is recommended for persons 11 years and older.
5. Children age 2 and older with high-risk health problems may need additional doses.
6. Your infant may not need a dose of rotavirus at 6 months depending on the brand of vaccine your health care provider uses.

Responsibilities Associated with Immunization Requirements

- Physicians and Public Health Clinics:
  - Knowing the current legal requirements for attendance and accurately completing the certificate
  - Administering immunizations according to the current Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule
  - Reporting the occurrence of any diseases listed on the "Notifiable Disease List"
  - Report any adverse event following the administration of a vaccine to VAERS
- Child Care and School:
  - Review the certificates for validity prior to accepting
  - Develop a system for immunization certificate management
  - Have certificates available for inspection and audit by health officials
  - Report the occurrence of any disease listed on the "Notifiable Disease List"

Responsibilities of Parents or Caregivers

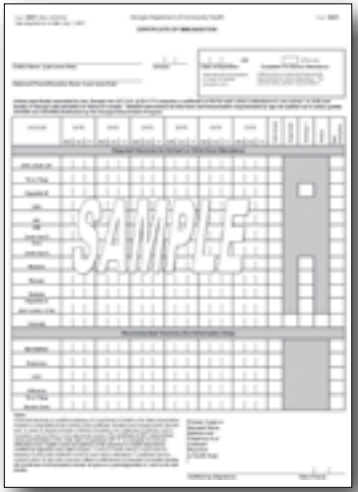
- Take your child to a health care provider for check-ups and immunizations at the recommended times
- Review all vaccine facts received before your child is immunized
- Discuss any questions or concerns about vaccines with your child's health care provider
- Keep your child's personal immunization record and take it with you on each visit to the health care provider to be assessed and updated
- Mark your child's vaccination due date and stay on schedule
- Obtain appropriate certificate for child care and school attendance from your health care provider
- Give a copy of the certificate to each facility your child attends

Required Form for Child Care and School Attendance

- The immunization form you need for your child to attend child care or school in Georgia is called the "Georgia Certificate of Immunization, Form 3231." Your child's immunization record must be reviewed by a Georgia doctor or public health clinic to get the certificate.
- Each facility your child attends should have a copy of the certificate on file. A photocopy is OK. For instance, if your second-grader goes to an after-school program at a private child care center, the school may have the original and the child care facility a photocopy.
- To register for school in Georgia, your child will also need a Form 3300, "Hearing/Vision/Dental Form," a birth certificate, Social Security card and proof of residence.

Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services

- GRITS is a "birth-to-death" web-based registry that keeps track of immunizations and related information for Georgians of all ages (i.e., children, adolescents and adults). The GRITS system includes a comprehensive database of immunization histories to help individuals get the immunizations they need by keeping track of all vaccines they have received so they don't get double or triple doses. GRITS provides important immunization records and forms (i.e., 3231) for keeping track of immunizations.



For more information visit the Georgia Immunization Program website www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization or call 404-657-3158.