

GIVE 'EM YOUR BEST SHOT



Georgia Immunization Requirements for Child Care  
and School Attendance Information for Parents

Immunize  
Georgia



## Remember: Vaccines Are Our Best Shot to Keep Georgia Children Healthy.

Protecting your child from disease may be the most important thing you can do for his/her health. Immunizations help keep children **safe from diseases** that once struck routinely.

Vaccines have done a great job getting rid of these diseases or making them very rare. Most Georgia parents have never known the fears of earlier generations. Today, vaccines and immunization requirements protect most Georgia children from these deadly illnesses. Talk with your child's doctor or healthcare provider about vaccines that are recommended to keep your child healthy or to protect your child.



## Georgia Requirements

Your child needs to be up-to-date on immunizations to enter school or attend child care. Georgia law requires that all children who attend child care and enter school be protected against these diseases: diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, Hib, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, varicella (chickenpox), polio, pneumococcal, and meningococcal disease.

Georgia requirements are based on the schedule recommended by doctors and scientists: the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. There are other shots you may also want your child to have, and scientists are working to find new vaccines to protect against even more diseases.

**YOUR CHILD'S DOCTOR OR CLINIC CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE ABOUT VACCINES AND THE SCHEDULE.**

## A Parent's Responsibility

### Protect Your Child from Disease

- Be sure to make those well checkup appointments during your child's early years.
- At each visit, check to see if your child's immunizations are up-to-date.
- If your child gets behind, ask your doctor to help them catch up.
- Keep your own complete record of your child's shots. This is very important in case you move or change health-care providers. Ask your doctor or clinic for an immunization record and take it to each visit to be updated.

## Vaccine Requirements Protect Your Child from These Diseases

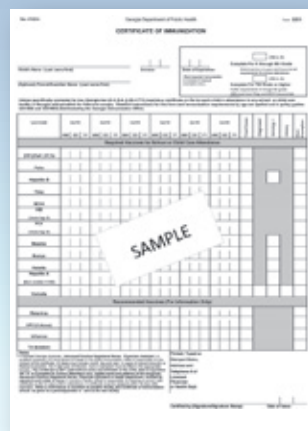
<b>Diphtheria</b>	is a serious bacterial illness that can lead to severe breathing problems, heart problems, and paralysis. The “D” part of the DTaP, Tdap or Td vaccines protects against this disease.
<b>Hepatitis Types A and B</b>	are serious liver diseases caused by a virus. HepA and HepB vaccines protect against these diseases.
<b>Hib</b> ( <i>Haemophilus influenzae type b</i> )	is a serious disease caused by bacteria. Hib can cause meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord), permanent deafness, brain damage, pneumonia and blood infections. Hib vaccines protect against this disease.
<b>Measles</b> ( <i>Rubeola</i> )	is a very contagious, viral illness that causes a rash, fever, runny nose, cough and loss of appetite. This viral illness may also cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and even death. The first “M” in the MMR vaccine protects against measles.
<b>Mumps</b>	is a serious viral illness that causes painful swelling in front of and behind the ear. Mumps can lead to deafness, brain or spinal cord infection, and painful swelling of the testicles. The second “M” in the MMR vaccine protects children from mumps.
<b>Pertussis</b> ( <i>whooping cough</i> )	causes violent coughing spells that can lead to shortness of breath. This bacterial illness is most harmful for babies and can be deadly. The “P” part of the DTaP or Tdap vaccine protects against this disease.
<b>Pneumococcal disease</b>	is a bacterial disease that can lead to serious infections in the lungs (pneumonia), blood, brain (meningitis) and death. Pneumococcal vaccine protects against this disease.
<b>Polio</b>	is a viral illness that can cause paralysis of the arms, legs, and breathing muscles. Both IPV and OPV vaccines protect against polio.
<b>Rubella</b> ( <i>German measles</i> )	can cause a miscarriage or serious birth defects if a pregnant woman gets infected. The “R” in the MMR vaccine protects against this serious viral illness.
<b>Tetanus</b> ( <i>lockjaw</i> )	is a serious bacterial illness that causes extremely painful muscle cramps all over the body. The “T” in DTaP, Tdap or Td vaccines protects against this disease. Everyone needs a tetanus booster every 10 years.
<b>Varicella Zoster</b> ( <i>chickenpox</i> )	is a viral illness that causes itchy blisters and sores all over the body. It can be severe in some people and can lead to serious skin infections, pneumonia, brain damage and death. Varicella (VAR) vaccine protects against the disease.
<b>Meningococcal</b> ( <i>meningitis</i> )	is a life-threatening, bacterial illness that can affect the blood, brain, and spinal cord. This disease can cause shock, coma, and death within hours of the first symptoms. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) protects against 4 types of meningococcal disease.

### Required Form for Child Care and School Attendance Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services

The immunization form you need for your child to attend child care or school in Georgia is called “**Georgia Department of Public Health Certificate of Immunization, Form 3231.**” Your child’s immunization record must be certified by a licensed Georgia doctor, APRN, PA or health department official.

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. GRITS provides important immunization records and forms (i.e., 3231) for keeping track of immunizations.

### Age Requirements

#### Younger than 4:

Babies and children who attend child care must show proof that their shots are up-to-date for their age. Since children are scheduled for shots at many of the well checkups during their early years, you will need to **get a new immunization certificate each time your child gets new shots.**

The doctor will mark a new “Date of Expiration” on each new certificate — that’s the date your child is due for another shot. A child whose certificate has not been replaced within 30 days after the “Date of Expiration” is not allowed to attend school or child care in Georgia. **Be sure to take this new certificate to your child’s school or child care.**

#### 4 or Older (Kindergarten through 6th Grade): X Marks the Spot

When children are four years old or older, most have completed the shot schedule they need to enter school and protect them from serious diseases. When your child reaches this milestone, the doctor will mark an “X” in the “Complete for K through 6th Grade”

box on the certificate. The “X” mark will indicate the child has met all their requirements for K through 6th grade and their next required immunization will be due on the date of expiration.

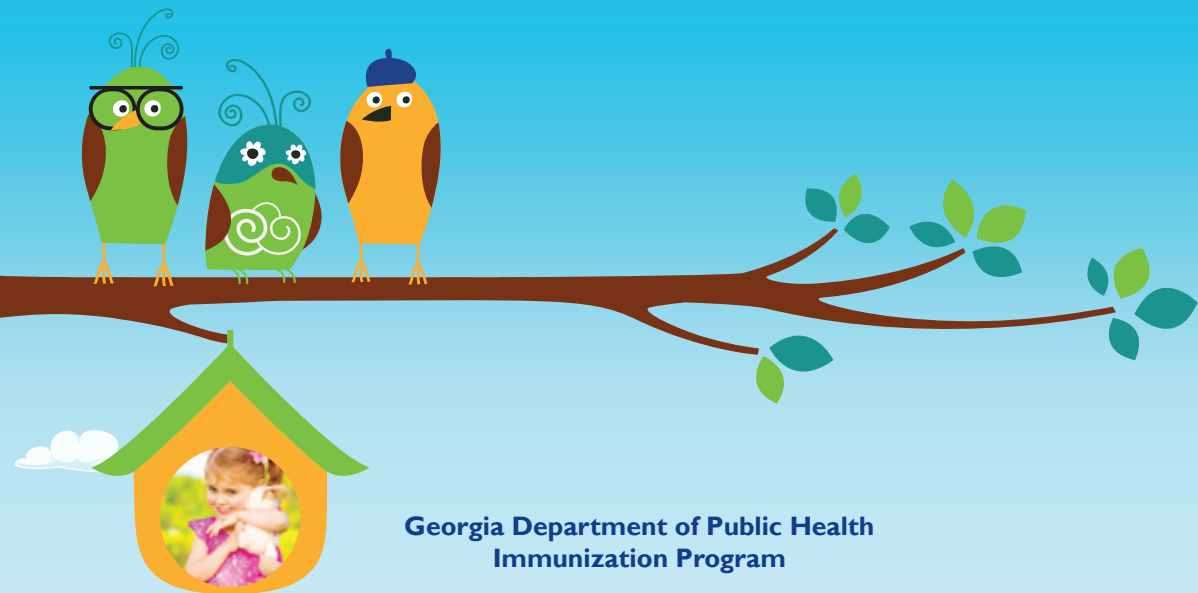
#### 7th Grade Requirement

For children entering the 7th grade or any “new entrant” entering 8th through 12th grade, the provider will mark an “X” in the “Complete for 7th Grade or Higher” box when the child has proof of an adolescent pertussis booster vaccination (Tdap), an adolescent meningococcal vaccination (MCV4) and all vaccines required for school attendance.

#### Catching up

If a child’s record does not meet the requirements, he/she may attend child care or school while catching up. Your doctor or clinic will mark a new expiration date on the form 3231 each time he/she gets a new shot until all requirements are met. The number of doses a child receives depends on the age when they enter school and when the child started getting his/her shots.

**THE NUMBER OF DATES ON THE FORM ARE DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON YOUR CHILD’S AGE.**



**Georgia Department of Public Health  
Immunization Program**

Two Peachtree Street, NW • 13th Floor, Suite 276  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142

**[www.dph.georgia.gov/schools-and-childcare](http://www.dph.georgia.gov/schools-and-childcare)**

**404-657-3158**



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