



Keeping Georgians Healthy

Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS)

Common Questions About GRITS

What is GRITS?

GRITS is the state's birth to death immunization registry designed to collect and maintain accurate, complete and current immunization records in compliance with Georgia Law (OCGA 31-12-3.1) and national health standards. Immunization registries are confidential, computerized information systems that contain information about immunization and clients of all ages. Individuals typically are entered into a registry at birth (often through a linkage with electronic birth records) or at first contact with the health care system. If a registry includes all individuals in a given geographical area and all providers are reporting immunization information, a registry can provide a single data source for all community immunization partners.

Georgia Registry Law

- Official Code of Georgia, Chapter 31-12-3.1
- Enacted April 8, 1996 as a Childhood Registry
- Expanded July 1, 2004 as a Birth to Death Registry

Key Points In Law

- Applies to all providers administering FDA approved vaccinations to any individual in Georgia
- Requires providers to submit accurate vaccination information to the Registry via the approved methods offered by the Department of Public Health/Georgia Immunization Office
- Allows sharing of immunization with schools, child care facilities, colleges and universities, and health care providers
- Provides for notification of parents/guardians when their child's shots are due or overdue

The goals of the Georgia Immunization Registry are:

- Ensure that all persons in Georgia receive appropriate, timely immunizations to lead healthy, disease-free lives
 - Assist providers and public health officials in reminding individuals when they or their children need or are past due for vaccination(s)
 - Assist public health officials in assessing and improving community immunization status
- Ensure access to up-to-date immunization records of Georgians
 - Assist providers in evaluating the immunization status of their patients
 - Avoid duplicate immunizations
- Meet the needs of Georgia's Immunization Registry mandate
- Provide a registry that is cost-effective, user-friendly and efficient

How do I register to become a user of GRITS?

To gain access to the information contained in the GRITS system you must contact the GRITS training coordinator at 404-463-0810 or email immreg@dhr.state.ga.us and complete an enrollment form as well as submit a signed software user agreement. Once you have submitted the signed software user agreement and attended a GRITS training session you will receive an OrgCode, UserID and password to gain access to the information contained within the GRITS system.

Is training available for providers?

Yes. Once an organization is enrolled in GRITS, the training coordinator will contact the immunization program consultant (IPC) for their district and arrange onsite training for the provider staff.

How do providers access the Registry?

Providers will be able to submit records through one of two mechanisms:

- Manual entry via a secure website
- Real-time interfacing which is automated

How soon should providers submit data to the Registry?

The Georgia Department of Public Health has identified 30 calendar days as the maximum time a provider is allowed to delay submitting immunization information to GRITS.

Are providers required to enter the shot history of existing patients?

A complete immunization history can offer key benefits such as calculation of immunization rates, accurate precall/recall and automated school certificates. Entry of immunization histories also benefits other immunization providers who can access the records through GRITS, therefore avoiding administration of duplicate immunizations.

Can medical office staff enter records into the Registry?

Yes. The provider accepts responsibility for the submission of immunization records according to the requirements of the registry legislation. The provider may also authorize additional members of the office staff to enter records.

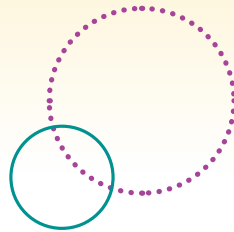
Will GRITS interface with my existing Practice Management System or Medical Records Management System?

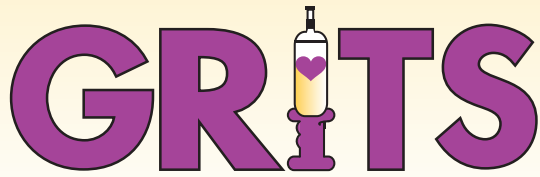
GRITS is willing to work with any vendor who desires to build an interface solution with the Registry. Please contact the GRITS interface team at 404-463-0810 or email immreg@dhr.state.ga.us to inquire if your vendor has developed a certified interface with GRITS.

Client and immunization data can be exchanged with the GRITS application using either the GRITS flat file specification or HL7 batch and real-time data transfer specifications. Prior to performing a data exchange, your provider organization will need to contact a GRITS training coordinator and arrange to be set up in GRITS.

Is there a help desk to assist providers?

Yes. GRITS has a help desk which is available to all users between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 866-483-2958. Users can also submit questions and suggestions to the registry help desk email address, gaimmreg@dhr.state.ga.us.





Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services

How will the Immunization Registry help me?

- Quick access to client's complete immunization history
- Improved client service by reducing office visit waiting time
- Prevent missed shots, duplicate shots and shots given out of series
- Reminder/Recall feature to inform parents of shots due
- User-friendly and accurate ACIP schedule wizard clarifies complex immunization schedules
- One-stop resource center for information on new vaccine combinations
- Quick and accurate printing of required school, day care, college and university immunization forms
- Provide the ability to process immunization via electronic medical record protocols (HL7, Flat File and PHINMS)



Who benefits from participating in GRITS?

- Pediatricians
- Family practitioners
- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- Internal medicine physicians
- Immunologists
- In-hospital providers who request immunizations for newborns or other children
- Public health staff
- Emergency room physicians
- Military base physicians
- Juvenile detention centers/prisons



School and Child Care Facilities and Immunization Registries: A Partnership for Success



The following are true for Georgia schools and child care facilities:

- Georgia law requires that all children who attend a school must be immunized
- All enrolled children must have a valid Certificate of Immunization on file with the school
- Schools are audited by public health staff each year and Certificates must be available for inspection



Schools and child care facilities are responsible for reporting student immunization coverage to their state department of health after the opening of every academic year. School nurses and other child care personnel spend many hours retrieving this information. Though currently, schools and child care facilities only have “read only” access to the data available in GRITS, it remains an essential tool in facilitating immunization compliance. It also helps prevent duplication of vaccinations when records have been lost or misplaced. GRITS is often key to resolving many common student immunization issues which arise from the three requirements previously listed.

How will the State Registry – GRITS – help with school and child care facility certificates?

GRITS allows schools to access the Registry to determine a child’s immunization status. In addition, providers can print up-to-date immunization certificates (form 3231) directly from GRITS, or if the child’s record is not up-to-date, they can print an “immunization needed” form.

Rev. 08/01/2012 Georgia Department of Public Health Form 3231

CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

Child's Name (Last name first) _____ Birthdate _____

Date of Expiration _____ OR _____ (Fill in X)

Complete For School Attendance
Child must be 2-4 years and have met all requirements for school attendance. The vaccine history section must be filled in.

(Optional) Parent/Guardian Name (Last name first) _____

Unless specifically exempted by law, Georgia law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-771) requires a certificate on file for each child in attendance in any school or child care facility in Georgia with penalties for failure to comply. Detailed instructions for this form and immunization requirements by age are spelled out in policy guides 3231NS and 3231REG distributed by the Georgia Immunization Office.

VACCINE	DATE		DATE		DATE		DATE		DATE		Total Doses	Diagnosis	Serology +	History	Med. Exemption
	MM	DD	YY	MM	DD	YY	MM	DD	YY	MM					
Required Vaccines for School or Child Care Attendance															
DTP, DtaP, DT															
Td or Tdap															
Hepatitis B															
OPV															
IPV															
HIB															
(Under Age 5) PCV															
(Under Age 5)															
Measles															
Mumps															
Rubella															
Hepatitis A (Born on/after 1/1/95)															
Varicella															
Recommended Vaccines (For Information Only)															
MCV/MPV															
Rotavirus															
HPV															
Influenza															
Td or Tdap (Booster Dose)															

Notes:
 A licensed Georgia physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Physician Assistant qualified employee of a local Board of Health or the State Immunization Office is responsible for the content and certification of this certificate with legible name, address, signature and date of issue. All dates must include month, day and year. In cases of tuberculin immunity or Medical Exemption, the 4 digit year of infection, test or exemption must be filled in the appropriate boxes). The certificate is NOT valid without name and birthdate of the child, date of expiration OR "X" in Complete For School Attendance box. A school or facility official is responsible for keeping a current valid certificate on file for each child in attendance. A certificate must be replaced within 30 days after expiration. When a child leaves or transfers to another facility, the Certificate of Immunization should be given to a parent/guardian or sent to the new facility.

Printed, Typed or Stamped Name, Address and Telephone # of Licensed Physician or Health Department

Certified by (Signature) _____ Date of Issue _____

Get More Information

Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS)
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Protection
Immunization Office
2 Peachtree Street, NW • Suite 13-476
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3186

GRITS Help Desk Toll Free Phone: **866-483-2958**

Toll Free Fax: **888-523-8076**

Local Fax: **404-657-7496**

GRITS Help Desk Email: **gaimmreg@dhr.state.ga.us**

GRITS Program Phone: **404-463-0810**

GRITS Program Email: **immreg@dhr.state.ga.us**

For more information, visit the Georgia Immunization Office website

www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization

or call **404-657-3158**

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Monday through Friday at **866-483-2958**.

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via the email address, **gaimmreg@dhr.state.us**.

