



October 4, 2022

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
Chapter 511-5-8
“Screening of Public School Children for Scoliosis”

The Department of Public Health proposes amendments to the rules located in Chapter 511-5-8, “Screening of Public School Children for Scoliosis,” pursuant to its authority under Georgia Code Sections 31-2A-6 and 20-2-772.

The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to provide acceptable alternatives to screenings in the school setting.

The proposed rules are posted on the Department’s website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/regulationsrule-making>. Interested persons may submit comments on these proposed revisions in writing addressed to:

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Written comments must be submitted on or before October 19, 2022. Oral comments may be presented online or via phone at a public meeting scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on October 18, 2022. To join the public meeting:

- To join by computer:
 - <https://gapublichealth.webex.com/gapublichealth/j.php?MTID=mfce5dbdb3b63d848a5c615a668d42211>
 - Meeting Number: 2532 222 3445
 - Password: mTJVrPqv344

- To join by phone:
 - 1-415-655-0001 United States Toll
 - Access Code: 25322223445

The Commissioner of Public Health will consider the proposed rules for adoption on or about November 4, 2022, to become effective on or about December 3, 2022.

Melanie Simon

Melanie Simon
General Counsel
Georgia Department of Public Health

**RULES OF
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 511-5
HEALTH PROMOTION**

**511-5-8
SCREENING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR SCOLIOSIS**

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Rule 511-5-8-.02 Provision for Screening

(1) The health authority in cooperation with the school authority shall provide screening of all public school children in the at risk population—, except in cases where the child has been screened during the at risk time by a physician with an active Georgia license, or a person working under the supervision of a physician with an active Georgia license, the local health department, or a licensed school nurse, or in such cases where the parent or guardian of the child has objected in writing to the screening.

(2) The annual screening process will target a minimum of two grades occupied by the at risk population, recognizing that with their earlier maturation females should be screened in early adolescence.

~~(3) All children in the at risk population grades selected shall be screened except those children whose parents or legal guardians object in writing to such screening.~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772.

Rule 511-5-8-.05 Screening Process

(1) The health authority shall cause each eligible child to be screened.

(2) Children identified as having a possible spinal deformity by volunteers shall be rescreened by the health authority.

(3) The health authority, at its discretion, may conduct follow-up clinics, utilizing x-ray and physician evaluation.

(4) Parents or guardians shall be notified solely by the health authority if their child is identified, during the screening process, as having a possible spinal deformity. The health authority shall also recommend to the parents or guardians that they seek further professional attention for the child.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772.