



June 15, 2022

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

The Department of Public Health proposes new rules to be 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 modify annual scoliosis screenings in public school children and to remove health departments’ requirements to follow-up with parents of children who were identified as having a possible spinal deformity after the initial notification is sent.

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 July 13, 2022. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be a physical in-person meeting; however, oral comments may be presented online or via phone at a public meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on July 11, 2022. To join the public meeting:

- To join by computer:
  - <https://gapublichealth.webex.com/gapublichealth/j.php?MTID=mb8f918037c806085723a6f63c3555d4b>
  - Meeting Number: 2534 303 2874
  - Password: 2uUgZQb9Rp3
  
- To join by phone:
  - 1-415-655-0001 United States Toll
  - Access Code: 2534 303 2874

The Commissioner of Public Health will consider the proposed rules for adoption on or about July 15, 2022, to become effective on or about August 15, 2022.

*Melanie Simon*

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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 public school children in the at risk population.
- (2) The annual screening process will target ~~Screenings shall be offered annually for~~ 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.
- ~~(5) — The health authority shall contact parents or guardians, who have been notified that their child may have a possible spinal deformity, to ascertain the outcome of subsequent evaluations.~~

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