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:

Melanie Simon
General Counsel
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street, N.W., 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 20202
melanie.simon@dph.ga.gov

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=mb8f918037c806085723af663c3555d4b
  - 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  
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.