



April 20, 2020

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
Revision to Immunization of School Children Regulation
511-2-2-.02

The Department of Public Health proposes the attached amendment to Rule 511-2-2-.02, "Immunization Required," pursuant to its authority under Georgia Code Sections 20-2-771, 31-2A-6, 31-12-3, and 49-5-12.

The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to delay the implementation date of the requirement for a booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine for eleventh grade students. Due to school closures and social distancing requirements imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department proposes to change the implementation date from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021.

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

Kristin L. Miller
General Counsel
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
Kristin.miller@dph.ga.gov

Comments may also be presented in person or by telephone at a public meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on May 20, 2020, in Room 9-260, at 2 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. To dial in, please call 1-888-251-2909 and enter access code 1860825. The Commissioner of Public Health will consider the proposed rules for adoption on or about May 21, 2020, to become effective on June 22, 2020.

Kristin L. Miller
General Counsel
Georgia Department of Public Health

RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CHAPTER 511-2-2 IMMUNIZATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

511-2-2-.02 Immunization Required.

(a) Except as otherwise provided, immunization against the following diseases shall be required of all children entering a school or childcare facility operating in the state:

- (1) Diphtheria;
- (2) Haemophilus influenzae type B (not required on or after the fifth birthday);
- (3) Hepatitis A;
- (4) Hepatitis B;
- (5) Measles;
- (6) Meningitis;
- (7) Mumps;
- (8) Pertussis;
- (9) Pneumococcal disease (not required on or after the fifth birthday);
- (10) Poliomyelitis;
- (11) Rubella (German measles);
- (12) Tetanus; and
- (13) Varicella (chickenpox).

(b) A parent or guardian must submit a valid Certificate of Immunization for any child entering a school or childcare facility in the state of Georgia for the first time.

(c) School or childcare facility officials may allow a child without a valid certificate of immunization to attend for no more than 90 calendar days after the first day of attendance, provided that the parent or legal guardian either shows that that the child is in the process of completing required immunizations and that immunizations are being scheduled with the shortest intervals recommended in the current Official Immunization Schedules, or presents an affidavit of religious objection as provided in DPH Rule 511-2-2-.07.

- (d) Effective July 1, 2014, for entrance into Georgia school grades kindergarten through twelve, students must have a total of two doses of measles vaccine, two doses of mumps vaccine, one dose of rubella vaccine and a total of two doses of varicella vaccine.
- (e) Children attending any childcare facility must show evidence of protection against pneumococcal disease.
- (f) Children born on or after January 1, 2006 who are attending any childcare facility or school must have proof of protection against hepatitis A disease (vaccination or serology).
- (g) Requirements for hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccines may be waived with serologic proof of immunity. Requirements for varicella vaccine may be waived also with a healthcare provider diagnosis of varicella disease or healthcare provider verification of history of varicella disease.
- (h) Effective July 1, 2014, children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending seventh grade, and children who are new entrants into a Georgia school in grades eight through twelve, must have received one dose of Tdap vaccine.
- (i) Effective July 1, 2014, children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending seventh grade, and children who are new entrants into a Georgia school in grades eight through twelve, must have received one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine.
- (j) Effective July 1, 2021~~0~~, children sixteen years of age and older who are attending eleventh grade must receive a booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, unless their initial dose was administered on or after their sixteenth birthday.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-771, 31-2A-6, 31-12-3, 49-5-12.