Georgia Requirements

Your child needs to be up-to-date on immunizations to enter school or attend child care. Georgia law requires that all children who attend child care and enter school be protected against these diseases: diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, Hib, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, varicella (chickenpox), polio, pneumococcal, and meningococcal disease.

Georgia requirements are based on the schedule recommended by doctors and scientists: the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. There are other shots you may also want your child to have, and scientists are working to find new vaccines to protect against other diseases.

A Parent’s Responsibility

Protect Your Child from Disease

• Be sure to make those well checkup appointments during your child’s early years.
• At each visit, check to see if your child’s immunizations are up-to-date.
• Be sure to make those well checkup appointments during your child’s early years.

Schedule Vaccines and the Schedule: Vaccines and the State’s Schedule

Immunizations help keep children free from diseases that may cause illness or death. Immunizations help keep children from these diseases:

• Diphtheria
• Hepatitis A
• Hepatitis B
• Haemophilus influenzae type b
• Measles
• Mumps
• Rubella
• Polio
• Pneumococcal disease

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Georgia Department of Public Health Immunization Program

Two Peachtree Street, NW • 13th Floor, Suite 276
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404-657-3158

Remember: Vaccines Are Our Best Shot to Keep Georgia Children Healthy.
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A Parent’s Responsibility

Protect Your Child from Disease

- Be sure to make those well checkup appointments during your child’s early years.
- At each visit, check to see if your child’s immunizations are up-to-date.
- If your child gets behind, ask your doctor to help them catch up.
- Keep your own complete record of your child’s shots. This is very important in case you move or change health-care providers. Ask your doctor or clinic for an immunization record and take it to each visit to be updated.

Remember: Vaccines Are Our Best Shot to Keep Georgia Children Healthy.

Protecting your child from disease may be the most important thing you can do for his/her health. Immunizations help keep children safe from diseases that once struck routinely.

Vaccines have done a great job getting rid of these diseases or making them very rare. Most Georgia parents have never known the fears of earlier generations. Today, vaccines and immunization requirements protect most Georgia children from these deadly illnesses. Talk with your child’s doctor or healthcare provider about vaccines that are recommended to keep your child healthy or to protect your child.
Vaccine Requirements Protect Your Child from These Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diphtheria</th>
<th>is a serious bacterial illness that can lead to severe breathing problems, heart problems, and paralysis. The “D” part of the DTaP, Tdap or Td vaccines protects against this disease.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis Types A and B</td>
<td>are serious liver diseases caused by a virus. HepA and HepB vaccines protect against these diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b)</td>
<td>is a serious disease caused by bacteria. Hib can cause meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord), permanent deafness, brain damage, pneumonia and blood infections. Hib vaccines protect against this disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles (Rubeola)</td>
<td>is a very contagious, viral illness that causes a rash, fever, runny nose, cough and loss of appetite. This viral illness may also cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage and even death. The first “M” in the MMR vaccine protects against measles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>is a serious viral illness that causes painful swelling in front of and behind the ear. Mumps can lead to deafness, brain or spinal cord infection, and painful swelling of the testicles. The second “M” in the MMR vaccine protects children from mumps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis (whooping cough)</td>
<td>causes violent coughing spells that can lead to shortness of breath. This bacterial illness is most harmful for babies and can be deadly. The “P” part of the DTaP or Tdap vaccine protects against this disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumococcal disease</td>
<td>is a bacterial disease that can lead to serious infections in the lungs (pneumonia), blood, brain (meningitis) and death. Pneumococcal vaccine protects against this disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>is a viral illness that can cause paralysis of the arms, legs, and breathing muscles. Both IPV and OPV vaccines protect against polio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella (German measles)</td>
<td>can cause a miscarriage or serious birth defects if a pregnant woman gets infected. The “R” in the MMR vaccine protects against this serious viral illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus (lockjaw)</td>
<td>is a serious bacterial illness that causes extremely painful muscle cramps all over the body. The “T” in DTaP, Tdap or Td vaccines protects against this disease. Everyone needs a tetanus booster every 10 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella Zoster (chickenpox)</td>
<td>is a viral illness that causes itchy blisters and sores all over the body. It can be severe in some people and can lead to serious skin infections, pneumonia, brain damage and death. Varicella (VAR) vaccine protects against the disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal (meningitis)</td>
<td>is a life-threatening, bacterial illness that can affect the blood, brain, and spinal cord. This disease can cause shock, coma, and death within hours of the first symptoms. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) protects against 4 types of meningococcal disease.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Requirements

**Younger than 4:**
Babies and children who attend child care must show proof that their shots are up-to-date for their age. Since children are scheduled for shots at many of the well checkups during their early years, you will need to get a new immunization certificate each time your child gets new shots.

The doctor will mark a new “Date of Expiration” on each new certificate — that’s the date your child is due for another shot. A child whose certificate has not been replaced within 30 days after the “Date of Expiration” is not allowed to attend school or child care in Georgia. Be sure to take this new certificate to your child’s school or child care.

**4 or Older (Kindergarten through 6th Grade): X Marks the Spot**
When children are four years old or older, most have completed the shot schedule they need to enter school and protect them from serious diseases. When your child reaches this milestone, the doctor will mark an “X” in the “Complete for K through 6th Grade” box on the certificate. The “X” mark will indicate the child has met all their requirements for K through 6th grade and their next required immunization will be due on the date of expiration.

**7th Grade Requirement**
For children entering the 7th grade or any “new entrant” entering 8th through 12th grade, the provider will mark an “X” in the “Complete for 7th Grade or Higher” box when the child has proof of an adolescent pertussis booster vaccination (Tdap), an adolescent meningococcal vaccination (MCV4) and all vaccines required for school attendance.

**Catching up**
If a child’s record does not meet the requirements, he/she may attend child care or school while catching up. Your doctor or clinic will mark a new expiration date on the form 3231 each time he/she gets a new shot until all requirements are met. The number of doses a child receives depends on the age when they enter school and when the child started getting his/her shots.
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Protect Your Child from Disease

A Parent's Responsibility

Vaccines are our best shot to keep your child healthy. Get your child's immunizations up-to-date to keep him/her healthy and safe from disease. Keep your child safe and healthy by making sure he or she is up-to-date on immunizations.

Schedule Vaccines and the Schedule Vaccines

Parents have questions about what to do with their child's medical record. You may also want your child to receive other vaccines that are recommended by doctors and scientists. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that all children receive the following vaccines:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough)
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Polio
- Mumps, measles, and rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Pneumococcal
- Meningococcal

Every parent has the right to know what is best for their child. Your child's doctor or clinic can answer any questions you may have about vaccines and immunizations.

Georgia Children's Health

Georgia Immunization Requirements for Child Care and School Attendance Information for Parents

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