Immunizations, also called vaccinations or shots, are medicines given to children to protect them against harmful diseases. These medicines are usually given by injection (shot). If your child is not properly immunized, severe illness may result, which can cripple or even kill your child. Every child should be fully immunized.

When To Immunize?

Children begin vaccinations at birth. Children will need several vaccinations during their first 2 to 18 months of life at different times for the rest of their lives.

Who Should Be Immunized?

Every child should be fully immunized.

How Do I Pay For Immunizations?

If you feel your child has had an unusual or severe side effect to an immunization, contact your health care provider for immediate attention. Your child may be at risk for serious illness and should receive care from a health care provider.

Where Can My Child Be Immunized?

Child care centers, schools and colleges offer the vaccines for free to their students. Immunizations are required for many health insurance plans.

Where Can I Find A Record Of My Immunizations?

If you move, choose a new doctor or public health clinic, your immunization record is portable. You will need the record number, which is usually on your school immunization form. Immunizations are also records of childhood and adolescent diseases.

Why Immunize Your Child?

Immunizations protect your child from diseases that could kill or cripple, such as measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, and polio.

Who Are Immunized?

Immunizing your child will help protect him/her from being immunized. Talk to your doctor if you do miss an immunization, your doctor or health care clinic can put your child on a date immunization record for your child. Ask your doctor or public health clinic to review your child's record at each visit and to tell you when the next vaccination is due.

Required Form for Child Care and School Attendance

The immunization form you need for your child to attend child care or school in Georgia is called the “Georgia Certificate of Immunization, Form 3231.” Your child’s immunization record must be reviewed by a Georgia doctor or public health clinic to get the certificate.

Each facility your child attends should have a copy of the certificate on file. A photocopy is OK. For instance, if your second-grader goes to an after-school program at a private child care center, the school may have the original and the child care facility a photocopy.

To register for school in Georgia, your child will also need a Form 3300, “Hearing/Vision/Dental Form,” a birth certificate, Social Security card and proof of residence.

Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services

GRITS is a “birth-to-death” web-based registry that keeps track of immunization and related information for Georgians of all ages (i.e., children, adolescents and adults). The GRITS system includes a comprehensive database of immunization histories to help individuals get the immunizations they need by keeping track of all vaccines they have received so they don’t get double or triple doses. GRITS provides important immunization records and forms (i.e., 3231) for keeping track of immunizations.

For more information visit the Georgia Immunization Program website www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization or call 404-657-3158.
Common Questions About Immunization & Childhood Diseases

What Are Immunizations?
Immunizations, also called vaccinations or shots, are a form of medicine made to protect people against many preventable diseases. These medicines are usually given by injection (shot). If your child is not properly immunized and gets one of these diseases, severe illness may result, which can cripple or even cause the death of your child.

When To Immunize?
Children begin vaccinations at birth. Children will need several vaccinations during their first 12-18 months of life and at different times for the rest of their lives.

Where Can My Child Be Immunized?
Call your health care provider’s office or local public health clinic to find out the time and place to get your child immunized.

How Do I Pay For Immunizations?
Many health insurance plans, including Medicaid and PeachCare, cover the cost of immunizations. If your health insurance plan does not cover immunizations, check to see if your health care provider offers the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. VFC is a federally funded program that provides vaccines to local doctors and public health clinics for children who meet required guidelines.

Why Immunize Your Child?
Immunizing your child will help protect him/her from these harmful diseases:
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis A
- Diphtheria
- Tetanus (lockjaw)
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- H. influenza type b disease (Hib)
- Polio
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella (German measles)
- Varicella zoster (chickenpox)
- Pneumococcal disease
- Influenza (“flu”)
- Meningococcal disease
- Rotavirus disease
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)

These diseases can result in breathing problems, liver, lung and brain damage, heart problems, blindness, deafness, cancer and even death. All of these diseases, except tetanus, are spread from person to person. Child care centers, schools and colleges require students to be up-to-date with their vaccinations.

Where Can I Find A Record Of My Child’s Immunizations?
Contact your health care provider. Georgia providers submit immunization records to the Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS). GRITS maintains immunization records in a computer database, regardless of when or where in Georgia the shots were administered.

Who Should Be Immunized?
Every child should be fully immunized. Immunizing your children will protect them against harmful diseases. (See the immunization schedule for a complete list of recommended vaccinations.)

Are Immunizations Safe?
The risk of getting a disease by not being vaccinated is far greater than the chance of problems from the vaccine itself. It is important to remember that all vaccines are tested many times to ensure they are safe for your child.

Are There Any Common Side Effects To Immunizations?
Common side effects may include a slight fever or redness, tenderness and swelling at the site of vaccination for a day or two. These side effects are mild and may not appear with each immunization. You should discuss any health concerns you may have with your doctor or public health clinic staff.

If you feel your child has had an unusual or severe side effect to an immunization, contact your health care provider for immediate evaluation and attention, and request they file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) report at 1-800-822-7967.

Can My Child Be Immunized Even If He/She Is Sick?
A minor illness should not prevent your child from being immunized. Talk to your doctor or public health clinic.

What If My Child Misses Some of His/Her Immunizations?
You should never skip a scheduled immunization appointment for your child. But if you do miss an immunization, your doctor or health care clinic can put your child on a “catch-up” schedule. Always keep an up-to-date immunization record for your child. Ask your doctor or public health clinic to review your child’s record at each visit and to tell you when the next vaccination is needed.
**When to Immunize** (Vaccines are listed by the age and age range they are to be given)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Hep B (Hepatitis B)</th>
<th>DTaP/Tdap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)</th>
<th>Hib (Haemophilus influenza type B)</th>
<th>Polio</th>
<th>PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate)</th>
<th>RV (Rotavirus)</th>
<th>MMR (Measles, Mumps &amp; Rubella)</th>
<th>Varicella (Chickenpox)</th>
<th>Hep A (Hepatitis A)</th>
<th>MCV4 (Meningococcal Conjugate)</th>
<th>Influenza</th>
<th>HPV (Human Papillomavirus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-18 Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-23 Months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-47 Months</td>
<td>Catch-Up¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 Years</td>
<td>Catch-Up¹</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-10 Years</td>
<td>Catch-Up²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-12 Years</td>
<td>Catch-Up³</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14 Years</td>
<td>Catch-Up³</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-18 Years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This schedule was adapted from the immunization schedule published by the Immunization Action Coalition and the recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

1. Your infant may not need a dose of Hib vaccine at 6 months of age depending on the brand of vaccine that your health care provider uses.
2. A child that is younger than 9 years and getting vaccinates against influenza for the first time should get two doses spaced at least four weeks apart.
3. Vaccinations delayed or missed entirely should be given as soon as possible.
4. One dose of Tdap is recommended for persons 11 years and older.
5. Children age 2 and older with high-risk health problems may need additional doses.
6. Your infant may not need a dose of rotavirus at 6 months depending on the brand of vaccine your health care provider uses.

**Responsibilities Associated with Immunization Requirements**

- Physicians and Public Health Clinics:
  - Knowing the current legal requirements for attendance and accurately completing the certificate
  - Administering immunizations according to the current Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule
  - Reporting the occurrence of any diseases listed on the “Notifiable Disease List”
  - Report any adverse event following the administration of a vaccine to VAERS

- Child Care and School:
  - Review the certificates for validity prior to accepting
  - Develop a system for immunization certificate management
  - Have certificates available for inspection and audit by health officials
  - Report the occurrence of any disease listed on the “Notifiable Disease List”

**Responsibilities of Parents or Caregivers**

- Take your child to a health care provider for check-ups and immunizations at the recommended times
- Review all vaccine facts received before your child is immunized
- Discuss any questions or concerns about vaccines with your child’s health care provider
- Keep your child’s personal immunization record and take it with you on each visit to the health care provider to be assessed and updated
- Mark your child’s vaccination due date and stay on schedule
- Obtain appropriate certificate for child care and school attendance from your health care provider
- Give a copy of the certificate to each facility your child attends
Common Questions About Immunization & Childhood Diseases

What Are Immunizations?

Immunizations, also called vaccinations or shots, are a form of medicine made to protect people against many preventable diseases. (See the Immunization Schedule for a complete list of recommended vaccinations.)

Who Should Be Immunized?

Children begin vaccinations at birth. Children (VFC) Program. Immunizing your child will help protect him/her from being immunized. Talk to your doctor or public health clinic.

Are Immunizations Safe?

You should never skip a scheduled immunization. If you feel your child has had an unusual or severe side effect to an immunization, contact your health care provider for immediate attention. Some of the minor illnesses people get are caused by viruses. When a virus or bacteria gets into your body, your body makes antibodies to fight it. Your body also makes new cells to fight the virus or bacteria. This is called an immune response. When you get a vaccine, a small amount of the virus or bacteria is put into your body. Your body makes antibodies to fight it. This causes your body to develop immunity.

Are There Any Common Side Effects To Immunizations?

Common side effects may include a slight fever or redness, tenderness and swelling at the site of vaccination for a day or two. These side effects are mild and may not appear with each immunization. You should discuss any health concerns you may have with your doctor or public health clinic staff.

Can My Child Be Immunized Even If He/She Is Sick?

A minor illness should not prevent your child from getting an immunization. If you do miss an immunization, your doctor will reschedule it. Children begin vaccinations at birth. Children (VFC) Program.

How Do I Pay For Immunizations?

Every child should be fully immunized. Immunizing your children will protect them against harmful diseases. (See the Immunization Schedule for a complete list of recommended vaccinations.)

Where Can My Child Be Immunized?

Where Can I Find A Record Of My Child’s Immunizations?

The immunization form you need for your child to attend child care or school in Georgia is called the “Georgia Certificate of Immunization, Form 3231.” Your child’s immunization record must be reviewed by a Georgia doctor or public health clinic to get the certificate.

Each facility your child attends should have a copy of the certificate on file. A photocopy is OK. For instance, if your second-grader goes to an after-school program at a private child care center, the school may have the original and the child care facility a photocopy.

To register for school in Georgia, your child will also need a Form 3300, “Hearing/Vision/Dental Form,” a birth certificate, Social Security card and proof of residence.

Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services

GRITS is a “birth-to-death” web-based registry that keeps track of immunizations and related information for Georgians of all ages (i.e., children, adolescents and adults). The GRITS system includes a comprehensive database of immunization histories to help individuals get the immunizations they need by keeping track of all vaccines they have received so they don’t get double or triple doses. GRITS provides important immunization records and forms (i.e., 3231) for keeping track of immunizations.

Required Form for Child Care and School Attendance

For more information visit the Georgia Immunization Program website www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization or call 404-657-3158.