

Give 'Em Your **Best Shot**



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

Georgia Department of Human Resources
Division of Public Health
Georgia Immunization Program
Two Peachtree St., NW, 13th Floor, Suite 476 • Atlanta, GA 30303-3142
www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization
404-657-3158

Georgia Requirements

Your child needs to be up-to-date on immunizations to enter school or attend child care. Vaccines help keep him and his friends well, and it's the law in Georgia.

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, and pneumococcal disease.

Your child's doctor or clinic can answer any questions you might have about vaccines and the schedule.

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 even more diseases. And remember that your child may continue to need boosters such as tetanus and pertussis.

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 he gets behind, ask your doctor to help him 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.**

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 **“Georgia Department of Human Resources Certificate of Immunization, Form 3231.”** Your child’s immunization record must be reviewed by a Georgia doctor or 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.

Form 3231 (Rev. 03/2007) Georgia Department of Human Resources Form 3231
Use required on or after July 1, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

Child's Name (Last name first) _____ Birthdate _____ Sex _____ (M or F)
Child's Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) Child's Sex (Male or Female)

Optional Parent/Guardian Name (Last name first) _____ Child's Health is a condition for school or child care attendance. The school/child care center must be notified in writing.

Notice: Specifically mandated by law, Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-71) requires a certificate for this form each child in attendance in any school or child care facility in Georgia with penalties for failure to comply. Detailed instructions for this form and immunization requirements by age are spelled out in public guidelines 3231HS and 3231HCS developed by the Georgia Immunization Program.

VACCINE	DATE		DATE		DATE		DATE		DAYS/DOSE	REMARKS	IMMUNITY	EXPIRES
	MM	DD	YY	MM	DD	YY	MM	DD				
Required Vaccines for School or Child Care Attendance												
DTP, DTaP, DT												
Td or Tdap												
Hepatitis B												
OPV												
IPV												
MM												
MM/Var (Over Age 6)												
Meningitis												
Mumps												
Rubella												
Hepatitis A												
Recommended (Optional)												
Vaccines												
Recommended Vaccines (For Information Only)												
MM/MP/SPV												
Poliovirus												
IPV												
Influenza												
Td or Tdap												
MM/Var (Over Age 6)												

Notes: 1. Immunized physician or qualified employee of a local Board of Health or the State Immunization Program is responsible for the accuracy of all information on this certificate. The parent/guardian must sign and date for copies of records furnished by medical practitioners. The 48-hour time limit for reporting immunization records to the appropriate health department is 48 hours. 2. The certificate is NOT valid without the signature of the physician or qualified employee. 3. For Child Care Attendance only, the certificate is valid only if signed by a parent/guardian or other person authorized by the parent/guardian. 4. For School Attendance only, the certificate is valid only if signed by a parent/guardian or other person authorized by the parent/guardian. 5. For each child in attendance, a certificate must be required within 30 days after enrollment. When a child moves or transfers to another facility, the certificate of immunization should be given to a parent/guardian or sent to the new facility.

Printed, Typed or Stamped Name, Address and Telephone # of Physician or Health Dept. _____
 Certified by (Signature) _____ Date of Issue _____

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 that they don’t get double or triple doses. GRITS provides important immunization records and forms (i.e., 3231) for keeping track of immunizations.

Age Requirements

Younger than 4: New Shots, New Certificate, New Expiration Date

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: X Marks the Spot

When children are four to six years old, most will complete 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 School Attendance” box on the certificate. This certificate with the “X” mark does not expire and is the last one the child will need for school.

Children registering for school at age five years or older must have proof of immunization against all the diseases listed on the back of this brochure except Hib and pneumococcal disease.

Catching up

If a child’s record does not meet the requirements, he may attend child care or school while he is catching up. Your doctor or clinic will mark a new expiration date on the form 3231 each time he gets a new shot until all requirements are met.

The number of doses a child receives depends on the age when he enters school and when he started getting his shots.



The number of shots — and the dates on the form — are different depending on your child’s age.

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 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.

So most Georgia parents have never known the fears of earlier generations. Before vaccines, almost every parent could expect his or her child to get some of the illnesses listed on the back of this brochure. Hundreds — sometimes thousands — of people died each year from them. Today, vaccines and immunization requirements protect most Georgia children from these deadly illnesses. Talk with your child's doctor or healthcare provider about other vaccines that are recommended but not required for child care and school attendance.



Vaccine Requirements Protect Your Child from These Diseases

Diphtheria is a bacterium that causes a throat infection so bad a patient can't swallow or breathe. It can make a poison in the body that can cause heart failure or paralysis. The "D" part of the **DTaP, Tdap** or **Td vaccines** protect against it.

Hepatitis Types A and B are viruses that can cause liver damage. Many people who get these illnesses can infect others. Some people who get Hepatitis B become lifelong carriers.

Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b) is a bacterium that causes meningitis, a swelling of the brain covering. It can also cause very bad throat or joint infections, pneumonia and hearing loss. **Hib vaccine** has been very successful in preventing this disease in young children.

Measles is a very contagious virus that causes a high fever and rash. It can lead to ear infections, pneumonia or swelling in the brain. The first "M" in the **MMR vaccine** protects against measles.

Mumps causes painful swelling around the cheeks and jaw. The virus can result in hearing loss or meningitis. The second "M" in the **MMR vaccine** protects children from mumps.

Pertussis (whooping cough) causes coughing spells so violent that a child can't breathe, eat or drink. Infection with this bacteria can lead to pneumonia, seizures or even a coma. The "P" part of the **DTaP** or **Tdap vaccines** protect against whooping cough.

Pneumococcal disease can lead to serious infections of the lungs (pneumonia), the blood (bacteremia), and the covering of the brain (meningitis). **Pneumococcal vaccine** protects against this disease.

Polio is a virus that can paralyze people, make their muscles weak or cause them to need a machine to help them breathe. **IPV** or **OPV vaccines** protect against the disease.

Rubella (German Measles) can harm unborn babies early in pregnancy. The "R" in the **MMR** vaccine protects against rubella.

Tetanus (lockjaw) causes muscle spasms so bad they can break bones. The bacteria get into the body through a wound. The "T" in **DTaP, Tdap** or **Td vaccines** protect children. Everyone needs a tetanus booster every 10 years.

Varicella Zoster (chickenpox) is a virus that causes itching and blisters. It can be severe in some people and can lead to pneumonia or skin infections.



Georgia Chapter
American
Academy of
Pediatrics



Georgia Academy of
Family Physicians