



State of Georgia
Important Reminder Notice
Eleventh Grade Immunization Requirement

Date:

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

Georgia law requires students be vaccinated against meningococcal disease, unless the child has an exemption. Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord. Meningitis can cause shock, coma and death within hours of the first symptoms.

To help protect your children and others from meningitis, before starting the 2020-2021 school year, all students entering or transferring into 11th grade will need proof of a meningococcal booster shot (MCV4), unless their first dose was received on or after their 16th birthday.

If your teen has not been vaccinated against meningococcal disease, we strongly recommend getting your child vaccinated. Getting MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine) now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of meningitis, it will also meet the new school entry requirement.

Ask your pediatrician or local health department about other shots your child may need including:

- the human papillomavirus (HPV) series
- the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis shot (Tdap or Td booster)
- an annual flu vaccine; and
- catch-up immunizations, including chickenpox, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and hepatitis B.

If your child does not have health insurance or their health plan won't cover these vaccines, call your local health department and ask about getting no or low cost vaccines. For more information, visit <http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children> or call (800) 848-3868.

Please note, your child must have documentation of receiving required vaccines completed before the first day of school. **11th graders must have required MCV4 to attend class.** Exceptions to this requirement are documented exemptions.

The Official Code of Georgia provides for only two types of exemptions from immunization requirements:

1. Medical: Medical exemption for a vaccine should be submitted on the advice of your child's physician. Medical exemptions must be submitted each year.
2. Religious: For a child to be exempt from immunizations on religious grounds, the parent or guardian must provide the school with a notarized Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization (DPH Form 2208).

Please see your healthcare provider or visit a local health department near you if your child has not received all of the required immunizations. If your child receives these vaccines, please have the healthcare provider review the updated immunization record for accuracy and completeness. All required vaccines must be listed in the GA 3231 Immunization record.

If you have any question about your child's immunization status, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department.

Sincerely,

Principal

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