Kathleen Toomey MD, MPH, Commissioner | Brian Kemp, Governor

Beverley Townsend, MD, MBA, FAAFP
Acting District Health Director
301 Main Street, LaGrange, GA 30240
Phone: (706) 845-4035 • www.district4health.org

Required School Immunizations and Health Screenings for the 2026-27 School Year

Spring and early summer are great times for parents and guardians to schedule their child's required immunizations and screenings for the 2026-27 school year.

Georgia law requires children attending a nursery, daycare facility, pre-kindergarten, Head Start program, or public or private school (kindergarten – 12th grade) to be protected from certain vaccine-preventable diseases. Children can receive these immunizations at their county health department or physician's office along with the required forms they will need to submit when enrolling in a Georgia school for the first time.

Children attending public schools also are required to submit a health screening form when enrolling in a Georgia school for the first time. ("First-time" students not only are those entering childcare, pre-K, kindergarten, etc., but also refer to 1) older students who are attending school in Georgia for the first time or 2) who have been absent from a Georgia school for more than 12 months or one school year.)

Parents or guardians can schedule their child's appointment online at their county health department at district4health.org/make-an-appointment or call District 4's Appointment Line at (800) 847-4262.

Parents are encouraged to make appointments in spring or early summer to help ease the back-to-school rush in July and August. County health departments can provide the three key documents their child will need:

- **Georgia Immunization Certificate (Form 3231):** If your child will be attending a Georgia school for the first time, your local health department or physician's office can let you know the specific immunizations your child needs. They will then provide you with a completed Form 3231 after administering the appropriate vaccines to your child. If your child has received vaccines in another state, you may need to bring proper documentation from that state. [Note: Accepted forms of documentation are a valid Form 3231 ***or*** Form 3231 with a medical exemption ***or*** Form 2208 (a notarized religious exemption)].

- **Georgia Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental, and Nutrition Screening (Form 3300)**: All children enrolled in a pre-kindergarten program or public school must have this certificate on file at their school. Your local health department or physician can conduct these screenings and complete this form.

- **Certified Birth Certificate/Proof of Birth Date:** Parents also will need to provide the school with proof of their child's birth date when enrolling in school for the first time. Parents of children born in any Georgia county can obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate at District 4's Vital Records offices at the following health departments (or use the link to order online)*:

- Carroll County - carrollgavitals.permitium.com/rod
- Meriwether County - meriwethergavitals.permitium.com/rod
- Spalding County - spaldinggavitals.permitium.com/rod
- Troup County - troupgavitals.permitium/com/rod
- Upson County - upsongavitals.permitium.com/rod

*A certified copy of a birth certificate is $25 (and $5 for additional copies of the same certificate). Additional fees apply when ordering online.

For a certified copy of a birth certificate in Butts, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Henry, Lamar, and Pike counties, visit the county Probate Court office.

IMMUNIZATIONS FOR RISING 7th-GRADE AND 11th-GRADE STUDENTS

Parents of rising 7th-graders and 11th-graders need to ensure their child has received the following vaccines so they may submit the required updated Form 3231 (or notarized religious exemption Form 2208) to their child's school:

- **Rising Seventh-Grader Immunizations:** Children who are 1) entering 7th grade or 2) "first-time" students enrolling in Georgia schools in grades 8 through 12 must have received one dose of Tdap vaccine and one dose of meningococcal vaccine.

- **Rising Eleventh-Grader Immunizations:** Effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older who are entering the 11th grade (including "first-time" students) must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday. MCV4 helps prevent meningococcal disease, a bacterial infection that can be very dangerous.

The HPV vaccine also is recommended for both girls and boys at ages 11–12 to protect against cancers and other diseases caused by human papillomavirus. The second dose of HPV should be received 6-12 months after the first dose. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/hpv.

Appointments are required at county health departments; no walk-ins, please. For health department visits, parents are encouraged to make appointments in the spring or early summer to help ease the traditional back-to-school rush in late July and August. Parents calling during the final weeks before school begins may find that all appointments are already filled. Scheduling early in the summer also will help ensure that any children who may need a follow-up vaccine can have it scheduled before the 2026-27 school year starts.

Health department fees for immunizations and screenings will vary. Children without health insurance are eligible to receive a discounted rate. Most insurance/Medicaid covers immunizations and screenings.

County health departments accept a variety of insurance plans. Payments for health services may be made by cash, Mastercard or Visa. For more information, please call (800) 847-4262.