

Immunization Requirements for Children Entering 7th Grade

January 15, 2014 – Georgia Department of Health

Beginning in the 2014-15 School Year, 7th Graders will be required to have Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, Pertussis) and Meningococcal conjugate vaccines prior to entering school (Fannin County, Aug. 6th, 2014).

The addition of these new school requirements will lead to an increase in immunization coverage levels in Georgia and reduce disease not only in Georgia children enrolled in school but also family members and others in the community. Data from the National Immunization Survey (NIS) ranked Georgia 39th in Tdap rates and 22nd in Meningococcal rates. Implementation of these new requirements will increase vaccine coverage rates and ensure protection against vaccine preventable diseases. We are optimistic that this reduction in disease rates will help reduce school absentee rates and thereby also improve students' performance.

Effective July 1, 2014 children born on or after January 1, 2002 who are attending 7th grade and for new entrants into a Georgia school grades 8th through 12th must have received one dose of Tdap vaccine and one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

Information pertaining to the revised immunization requirements may be viewed on the Georgia Department of Public Health's website <http://dph.georgia.gov/immunization-section> or contact the Georgia Immunization Program at 404-657-3158.