Georgia Department of Public Health
Coastal Health District

Bonzo Reddick, MD, MPH, District Health Director

400 Mall Boulevard, Suite G
Savannah, GA 31406
Phone: 912-644-5200 | Fax: 912-349-5691

150 Scranton Connector
Brunswick, GA 31525
Phone: 912-262-2300 | Fax: 912-262-2315

March 3, 2026

Dear Parent:

One of the most effective ways we can ensure the safety and well-being of all our students, faculty, and staff is through vaccination against preventable diseases. State law requires certain vaccinations for students at various stages throughout their school years. Children can be denied school entry if not up to date on required vaccines, so please don't delay scheduling an appointment for your child as they approach each of the following vaccination milestones.

Georgia law requires proof of the following vaccinations (or proof of a medical or religious exemption) for school attendance:

- **Children entering pre-K or Kindergarten** must be up to date on required early childhood vaccinations including diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis A & B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chicken pox). A vision, hearing, dental, and nutrition screening is also required for all children entering a Georgia school for the first time, regardless of age.
- **Children entering 7th grade** around the age of 11 or 12 must receive a dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine.
- **Children entering 11th grade** that are 16 or older are required to have a meningococcal (meningitis) booster vaccine.

Other age-appropriate vaccines recommended by the CDC are HPV vaccine which prevents certain cancers, meningococcal B vaccine, COVID vaccines, and an annual flu shot; however, these vaccinations are not required for school attendance.

Vaccinations and screenings are available at your local county health department as well as local doctor's offices.

If you have any questions about vaccines, please contact the Coastal Health District Immunization Program at 912-262-2346. Thanks for all you do to create a safer, healthier school environment for our students, faculty, and staff.

Sincerely,

C. Paige Lightsey, RN

C. Paige Lightsey, RN
Immunization Program Coordinator
Coastal Health District