



## School Assessment Guidance SY 2020-2021

School and Child care guidance has been slightly altered to compensate for our changing climate due to COVID-19. As we embark on the 2020 school assessment season, please be assured that Public Health supports you and will work to assist you when possible.

### **Assessing/Auditing Virtual or Classroom Settings**

- All students are to be assessed (kindergarten and seventh grade). Schools should maintain records for students in virtual and classroom settings.
- Official Code of Georgia Section 20-1-771(b) states that "No child shall be admitted to or attend any school or facility in this state unless the child shall first have submitted a certificate of immunization to the responsible official of the school or facility." The words "admit" and "attend" are not dependent on the location of the child during instruction, be it at home (virtual/remote/distance learning) or on school grounds. A certificate of immunization is required if the child has been entered onto the school roll or takes advantage of its programs, even though instruction may be provided through virtual means.
- Each enrolled student should have an up-to-date immunization certificate, medical exemption or religious exemption on file.

**The Assessment/Audit Process:** Conducting school assessments this year may require the use of alternative methods of collecting and reviewing certificates. Please be flexible and work with Public Health to identify a plan that works for everyone.

- The assessment/audit timeline will be extended through March 2021.

**New Certificate of Immunization 3231:** The new immunization certificate (Form 3231) went into effect July 1, 2020.

- Students with up to date or complete certificates do not have to replace certificates.
- Effective July 1, 2021, all students 16 years of age and older who are entering 11th grade must receive a booster dose of meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine, unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

**Temporary Guidance:** The guidance below will be temporarily implemented to assist with any issues the schools may experience.

- Due to COVID-19 related challenges some providers are delayed in scheduling immunization visits. Some public health clinics are also having challenges administering same day vaccinations. Schools will be allowed to offer a waiver of up to 90 days for students unable to schedule a visit with their provider prior to registration.
  - A waiver extension should only be offered if the parent has scheduled a visit. Waivers for 90 days should be a rare occurrence. Follow-up should be conducted to ensure that these students get vaccinated.
  - If a waiver is issued, the waiver period starts on the day of enrollment.
- Although the MCV4 booster requirement has been delayed, the new immunization certificate

expires for the booster at 16 years or older. We are encouraging the providers to administer the vaccine. However, some parents may refuse the vaccine due to the delay. Providers will be allowed to expire the certificate until June 30, 2021. Change of expiration date is only allowed for the booster dose.

- Parents who elect to defer the booster dose may also present at enrollment with an expired immunization certificate (form 3231) due to the implementation of a new immunization certificate as of July 1, 2020. Expired certificates for these students will be accepted for the '20-'21 school year. Please be advised, this provision **ONLY** applies to the (MCV4) booster dose requirement. All other school entrance requirements will be enforced.

### **Follow-up**

- All schools with less than 100% student compliance will be reassessed 30 days after the initial visit. Student certificates with waiver extensions should be monitored and updated once the student receives the required vaccines.

If you have challenges or questions, please contact your county public health immunization school assessor/auditor. Thank you for your patience and help as we adjust to our new normal.