



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: 912-644-2300 | Fax: 912-262-2315

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Dear Parent:

Children entering 7th and 11th grades are required to have important vaccinations for school attendance. We want to make you aware of these requirements so you can plan ahead for the 2023-2024 school year. Vaccination appointments fill up quickly in the late summer and at the start of school, so we encourage you make an appointment with your child's healthcare provider or your local county health department in advance. Children can be denied school entry if not up to date on required vaccines, so please don't delay!

All children entering 7th grade must receive one dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine and one dose of meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine.

All children entering the 11th grade that are 16 or older are required to have a meningococcal (meningitis) booster vaccine (MenACWY), unless their first dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

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.

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 keep your kids and our students healthy.

Sincerely,

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