## Georgia Vaccination Surveillance System

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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Statute/Rule</th>
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<th>Exemption</th>
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<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>STATUTE: Title 31, Chapter 12 NO RULE FOUND</td>
<td>O.C.G.A. § 31-12-3.1 Vaccination registry; reporting requirements, maintenance, and use (a) The department, for purposes of establishing and maintaining a single repository of accurate, complete, and current vaccination records to be used in aiding, coordinating, and promoting effective and cost-efficient disease prevention and control efforts, shall establish and maintain a vaccination registry. (b) Any person who administers a vaccine or vaccines licensed for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration to a person shall for each such vaccination provide to the</td>
<td>O.C.G.A. § 31-12-3.1…(e) …All persons shall be enrolled unless a specific exemption is requested by the person or the person's parent or guardian if the person is 18 years of age or younger.</td>
<td>O.C.G.A. § 31-12-3.1…(e) Individually identifiable vaccination information regarding a person may be provided to the department by, or released by the department to, a local health department, hospital, physician, or other provider of medical services to the person or to a school or child care facility in which the person is enrolled if the person is 18 years</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
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department such data as are deemed by the department to be necessary and appropriate for purposes of the vaccination registry established pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section, including, without limitation:

(1) The name of the person;

(2) The person's date and place of birth, including the name of the hospital where delivered, if applicable;

(3) The names and addresses of the person's parents or guardians if the person is 18 years of age or younger;

(4) The date of the vaccination and the specific type or types of vaccine or vaccines administered to the person on that date; and

available to parents. In addition, the Registry will be issuing public information about the benefits of the Registry.

“What if parents do not want their child's record in GRITS?
As an Opt Out State, the Registry Law allows authorized parents or guardians to exempt their children from the registry. They will have the responsibility of completing an Opt Out form to initiate their request. These forms are available to all public and private providers. The Opt Out form can also be accessed at: http://www.health.state.ga.us/pdfs/forms/grits008.03.pdf. Parents will have the option of re-registering their child if they change their mind at a later date.

(f) Nothing in this Code section shall:

(1) Prohibit the department from providing or publishing registry information in aggregate form for scientific, educational, or public health purposes, provided that such information is published without releasing or identifying individual names contained in the registry;

of age or younger without the consent of the person or the person's parents or guardians…
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<th>(5) Complications or side effects resulting from a vaccination, if any. Vaccination data reporting requirements, including without limitation the types of data required to be reported and the time and manner of reporting such data, shall begin after the registry has established linkages to vaccine providers and shall be established by the department in consultation with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Georgia chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians.</th>
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<td>“What happens to the patient’s data if they choose to Opt Out and then Opt Back into the Registry? The information will have to be re-entered from the immunization history record provided by the parent. When an authorized parent or guardian selects to remove their child from the registry, all immunization information is removed from the registry.</td>
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<td>(2) Prohibit the department or any medical services provider from notifying a person or the person's parent or guardian if the person is 18 years of age or younger of the person's vaccination status or of a vaccination that is due or overdue according to recommended vaccination schedules; or</td>
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<td>(3) Diminish a parent's or guardian's responsibility for having a child vaccinated properly.</td>
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“What are immunization registries? Immunization registries are confidential, computerized information systems that contain information about immunizations and clients of all ages. Children typically are entered into a registry at birth (often through a linkage with electronic birth records) or at first contact with the health-care system... Immunization registries also can be used to enhance adult immunization services and coverage.
(c) The department shall utilize the registry to provide notices, whether by mail, telephone, personal contact, or other means, to persons and to parents or guardians regarding their children or wards who are due or overdue for a particular type of vaccination according to recommended vaccination schedules. The department shall consult with medical services providers to determine the most effective and efficient manner of using the registry to provide such notices.

(d) Vaccination records for any person included within the vaccination registry shall be maintained as part of the registry until the person's death... [emphasis added]

“The concept of immunization registries is not new. Many individual practices and health plans have developed information systems to keep track of immunizations given to their patients. Often these are based on computerized information systems designed for other purposes such as billing. There is also a growing movement toward development of totally computerized patient medical records. These site- or plan-specific registries cover only immunizations administered by participating providers to covered patients.

“Only population-based immunization registries can provide information on all children and/or adults and all doses of vaccines administered by all providers.” (Georgia Department of Human Resources, http://health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization/grits/faq.asp)

(g) Any person, including but not limited to practitioners of the healing arts, submitting or obtaining in good faith vaccination reports or data to or from the department in compliance with the provisions of this Code section and any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to this Code section shall not be liable for any civil damages therefor.
...(i) The department is authorized and directed to promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary and appropriate to implement the provisions of this Code section.