



PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

Pursuant to the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act, Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) § 50-13-1 et seq., the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to provide public notice of its intent to adopt, amend, or repeal certain rules, other than interpretive rules or general statements of policy. Accordingly, the Department hereby provides notice of its intent to revise the Rules and Regulations for Healthcare Facility Regulation, Intermediate Care Homes, specifically Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 111-8-47-.03, *Administration* and Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 111-8-47-.15, *Health of Employees*. These proposed changes are needed to conform to the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12, and to update employee health screening requirements. An exact copy of the revised rules and a synopsis of the revisions are attached to this public notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

An opportunity for public comment will be held on May 5, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. There will be no in-person attendance at the Department of Community Health. The Zoom meeting ID number is 813 0585 8245 and the event password is "935191". Follow these instructions to join the event:

1. Click the link or copy and paste the link text to a browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81305858245?pwd=AUjobqXqvCHeslB7sYDWEEeQLrwyW.l>

2. Click "Join Now"

To join by telephone: One tap mobile

+16469313860,,81305858245#,,, *935191# US

+13017158592,,81305858245#,,, *935191# US (Washington DC)

Oral comments will be limited to ten (10) minutes per person. Individuals who are disabled and require assistance to participate during this meeting should contact the Office of General Counsel at (470) 259-0735 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes must do so on or before May 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Due to reduced physical staffing at the 2 M.L.K., Jr. Drive, SE



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

location, DCH encourages written public comments submitted in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(2) to be submitted via e-mail to the following e-mail address: Public.Comment@dch.ga.gov.
Please note that any comments submitted are subject to open records.

Written comments may be submitted via regular mail to the following address:

Attention: Alycia Allgood
Office of General Counsel
Georgia Department of Community Health
2 M.L.K. Jr. Drive, SE, 18th Floor, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on June 11, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 9th DAY OF APRIL 2026



Dean Burke, MD, Commissioner

**111. RULES OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
111-8. HEALTHCARE FACILITY REGULATION
111-8-47. INTERMEDIATE CARE HOMES**

AMEND CHAPTER 111-8-47

SYNOPSIS OF REVISED RULE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The Georgia Department of Community Health proposes to amend and update the Rules and Regulations for Healthcare Facility Regulation, Intermediate Care Homes, Ga. Comp. R. & Regs., r. 111-8-47. These rules are proposed pursuant to the authority granted to the Department of Community Health in O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2-4 et seq. and 31-7-1 et seq.

MAIN FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

The purpose of these rule revisions is to provide conformity with the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12, and to update the health screening requirements for employees.

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Rule 111-8-47-.03. Administration

(1) Each intermediate care home shall be under the supervision of a licensed nursing home administrator. An administrator may serve as the administrator of not more than one facility, except that two facilities having common ownership or management located on the same premises may be served by a single administrator. Distinct part facilities sharing a common roof shall be considered one facility. In exceptional circumstances, a waiver may be granted by the Department for a period of six months.

(2) Each home shall be operated in accordance with policies approved by the Department. These policies shall include but not be limited to those governing admissions, transfers, discharges, physicians' and dental services, social services, intermediate resident care services, housekeeping, environmental sanitation, recreational services, and health records.

(3) Each facility shall have a written transfer agreement in effect with one or more hospitals and nursing homes. Intermediate care homes that are a Distinct Part of a hospital or skilled nursing home shall be considered to meet this requirement if acceptable provisions for the transfer of residents are included in the home's policies.

(4) There shall be a separate personnel folder maintained for each employee. This folder shall contain all personal information concerning the employee, including the application and qualifications for employment, physical examination and job title assigned. A current job description shall be available for each classification of employee, but may be maintained separately from the personnel folder.

(5) The facility and its premises shall be used only for those purposes for which the facility is operated and permitted.

(6) In response to a reasonable request by a resident or visitor, privacy shall be afforded for private conversation and/or consultations.

(7) Criminal History Background Checks for Owners Required. Prior to the issuance of any new license, the owner of the business or agency applying for the license must comply with the requirements of the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12.

(8) Criminal History Background Checks for Administrators Required. The home must obtain a satisfactory fingerprint records check determination for the person being considered for employment as an administrator. The records check determination must be done in compliance with the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12.

(9) Criminal History Background Checks for Direct Access Employees Required. Prior to serving as a direct access employee, the home must obtain a satisfactory fingerprint records check determination for the person to be hired in compliance with the Rules and Regulations for Criminal Background Checks, Chapter 111-8-12.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2-4, et seq., 31-7-1, et seq.

Rule 111-8-47-.15 Health of Employees

~~Each home shall require that each employee receive a health screenings physical examination upon employment. The examination shall be in sufficient detail, with pertinent laboratory and X-ray data to insure that the employee is physically and mentally qualified to perform the job to which he is assigned. An annual physical examination thereafter is recommended. However, as a minimum, on an annual basis for each employee will have a physical inspection to help insure freedom from communicable disease. As part of the annual examination or inspection a tuberculin skin test will be given to all previous negative reactors. If the skin test is positive, a chest X-ray will be required and the individual referred to his physician or appropriate health authority for possible prophylaxis treatment. Copies or certificates of physical examinations shall be kept in the employee's personnel folder.~~

(1) Health Screenings. Each home shall have in place a health screening program designed to identify conditions that may place residents at risk for infection, injury, or improper care. The program shall include requirements and processes for initial, routine, and targeted health screenings for employees and contractors who interact with residents or conduct other activities with environmental impact.

(2) Screening for Tuberculosis (TB). Prior to starting work, all employees must be screened for TB in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for baseline screening and testing for health care personnel.

(3) Records. Copies or certificates of the health screenings shall be kept in the employee's personnel folder.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2-4 et seq. and 31-7-1 et seq.