



District 2 Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Franklin County Health Department to conduct scoliosis screening for middle school students

GAINESVILLE, GA -- On Monday, September 11, 2017 health department staff will conduct scoliosis screenings for 7th and 8th graders at Franklin County Middle School. Scoliosis (curvature of the spine) screening is designed to find abnormal spinal curvatures among children in grades 7 and 8.

This is a simple and painless examination that is conducted in just a few seconds by trained professionals. The purpose of this test is to detect spinal irregularities, because they are easier to correct if found early. Too often, officials say, back curvatures are not discovered until so late that permanent damage has been done and drastic treatment is required. Signs of scoliosis are found in about five to ten percent of children screened.

Public health and school officials strongly urge parents to allow their children to have this simple examination done. Students in grades seven (7) and eight (8) will bring home letters from the school regarding this program. If you want your child to be screened, you do not have to do anything. **Parents who DO NOT want their children screened should return the letter to the school.**

Spinal deformities often develop during the adolescent years when children grow rapidly. Treatment, when necessary, can consist of exercise or wearing a back brace that helps correct the condition and keep it from getting worse. When detected early, scoliosis does not interfere with most activities.

Parents of children found to have signs of scoliosis will be notified by mail.

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