

STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

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Dear Parents of Students in Colorado Schools, K through 12th Grades (School Year 2015-16),

Colorado law requires that children going to school be immunized against vaccine-preventable disease. Colorado follows the immunization schedule approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other physician groups who recommend that health care providers follow this schedule. It is called the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or the ACIP schedule.

For those students who have not been vaccinated according to the ACIP schedule in the past, they will need to get up-to-date on immunizations that give the best protection against vaccine preventable disease. Changes that some parents may notice for the 2015-16 school year may include:

- 2 doses of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are now required for all K through 12th grade students.
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine must follow correct spacing between vaccines as well as correct ages.
- MMR and Varicella – first doses must be given no more than 4 days before the first birthday. If vaccine is given more than 4 days before the 1st birthday they are NOT valid and are to be repeated.
- The chart on page 2 is your guide to the specific vaccines that are “**required**” for school attendance as well as those that are “**recommended.**” **Please share this letter with your health care provider who is familiar with the ACIP schedule.**

NEW: A new House Bill (HB14-1288) was passed in May 2014 and requires schools and childcares to calculate immunization and exemption rates for their enrolled students. Anyone can now call the school and ask for those rates. Many parents, especially those with children too young to be vaccinated or whose child can't be vaccinated due to a medical issue, would like to know which schools are best protected against vaccine preventable disease.

Parents often have concerns or want more information about children's immunizations and vaccine safety. A resource developed for parents with frequently asked questions about the safety and importance of vaccines can be located at: www.ImmunizeForGood.com. The Colorado Immunization Section's website is located at: www.ColoradoImmunizations.com.

Please discuss your child's vaccination needs with your child's health care provider or local public health agency. (To find your local public health department's contact information call the Family Health Line at 1-303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777). Please bring your child's updated immunization records to the school each time your child receives an immunization.

Sincerely,

Colorado Immunization Branch
303-692-2700

MINIMUM NUMBER OF DOSES REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION
Kindergarten through Grade 12, 2015-16 Required for School Attendance.

| VACCINE | Number of Doses | Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age) |
|--|-----------------|---|
| | | <i>Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid</i> |
| Pertussis <i>DTaP only licensed through 6 yrs of age.</i> | 5 to 6 | 5 DTaP (if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4 th birthday, the requirement is met). The final dose of DTaP must be administered no sooner than 4 years of age. Tdap req. 6 th through 12 th grades. |
| Tetanus/Diphtheria <i>DT only licensed through 6 yrs of age.</i> | 3 to 5 | 5 DT (if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4 th birthday, the requirement is met). If child is 7 yrs of age or older, must have 3 appropriately spaced tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccines (DTaP , DT , Td , Tdap) - 4 wks between dose 1 & 2 and 6 mos between dose 2 & 3 |
| Polio (IPV) | 3 to 4 | 4 IPV (or 3 doses if 3 rd dose given on or after 4 th birthday) following ACIP guidelines. Students who were compliant with 3 or 4 doses prior to August 2010 have met the polio requirement. |
| Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) <i>1 dose of Rubella meets requirements</i> | 2 | The 1 st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1 st birthday, 2 doses are required for children entering K through 12 th grade. |
| Varicella (Chickenpox) <i>Documentation of disease from a health care provider (Physician, RN or PA) is required</i> | 2 | The 1 st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1 st birthday. 2 doses are required for children entering K through 12 th grade. |
| Hepatitis B <i>Students must follow the minimum intervals recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)</i> | 3 | The second dose must be administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose. The third dose must be administered at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The final dose is to be administered no sooner than 24 weeks (6 mos) of age. The 2-dose series is acceptable for ages 11-15 years. 2 doses can only be accepted using the approved vaccine for the 2-dose series with proper documentation (name of the vaccine, dosage, dates, and interval). |

RECOMMENDED VACCINES FOR THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE

| VACCINE | Number of Doses | Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age) <i>Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Influenza (Flu) | 1 to 2 | 2 doses initially if under 9 yrs of age with a minimum interval of 28 days between doses, then 1 dose annually, thereafter. Recommended for children 6 months of age and older. |
| Meningococcal Meningitis (MCV) | 1 to 2 | Adolescents 11-18 years of age |
| Human Papillomavirus (HPV) | 3 | Adolescents 11-18 years of age. |
| Hepatitis A (Hep A) | 2 | All children 1 year and older |

For REQUIRED vaccines: A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.

You must provide one of the following to your child's school in order to comply with the law:
1. A completed Certificate of Immunization certifying that the student has received minimum immunizations or an Immunization record from your health care provider.

2. If a student's Certificate of Immunization is not up to date, the parent/guardian or emancipated student has 14 days after direct notification to provide documentation that the next required immunization was administered and submit a written plan completion of any additional required immunizations. If the plan is not completed, the student shall be excluded from school for non-compliance. Exception to this rule is a shortage of vaccine.

3. Statement of Exemption to Immunization - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Certificate of Immunization:

- a) a medical exemption signed by licensed physician stating that the student's physical condition is such that immunizations would endanger life or health or is otherwise medically contraindicated; or
- b) a religious exemption signed by the parent, guardian, or emancipated student that the student adheres to a religious belief opposed to immunizations; or
- c) a personal exemption signed by the parent, guardian, or emancipated student that the student adheres to a personal belief opposed to immunizations.



Immunization requirements will be strictly enforced for all students. Students who do not meet the requirements will be denied attendance according to Colorado Revised Statutes 25-4-902.

Call about free or low cost vaccines at Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777