

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 vaccinated against vaccine-preventable disease. As a parent, it is important to know that in addition to the vaccines **required** by Colorado Board of Health for school entry, there are vaccines that are **recommended** by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP schedule is approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians & the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists. Kindergarten through 12th grade **required** immunizations include: Hepatitis B, Tdap, Td, IPV/OPV, MMR and Varicella vaccines. **Recommended** vaccines include: Influenza, Meningococcal, HPV and Hepatitis A vaccines. The ACIP immunization schedule is “best practice” and is the schedule that guides health care providers who give vaccines to individuals.

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 were previously not required for specific grades and ages. For the 2015-16 school year, all students K through 12th are required to receive:

- 2 doses of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B to include appropriate intervals between doses and appropriate age for last dose.
- The first doses of MMR and Varicella given more than 4 days before the first birthday are NOT valid and are to be repeated.
- The chart on page two is your guide to the specific vaccines that are required for school attendance. **Please share this letter with your health care provider who is familiar with the ACIP schedule.**

NEW: House Bill 14-1288 was passed in May 2014 and requires schools and childcares to provide immunization and exemption rates for their enrolled students upon request. Many parents, especially those with children too young to be vaccinated or who can't be vaccinated due to a medical issue, have expressed interest in knowing immunization rates so they can be sure their children are in a learning environment that is well protected against vaccine preventable diseases.

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>1dose 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>	1 or 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.

