

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 Children in Colorado Schools,

Immunizations are an important part of our children's health care because they protect against vaccine preventable diseases. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the vaccines your child will be required to have in order to attend a Colorado school in the 2009-10 school year. Making sure that your child is fully immunized prior to the start of the school year will ensure that your child is in compliance with the rules pertaining to the immunizations of students attending school. Please bring your child's immunization records to the school at enrollment or registration and notify the school each time your child receives an immunization.

Included in this letter is the document entitled, "*Minimum Number of Immunization Doses Required: Kindergarten through Grade 12, 2009-10.*" The chart in the document should assist you in determining which required vaccines your child will need for school attendance. Schools work hard to ensure compliance with the immunization laws and your assistance in providing updated immunization records to your child's child care at enrollment is greatly appreciated. (There are additional shots that your health care provider or immunization clinic may recommend).

Sincerely,

Jamie Damico, RN, MSN, CNS
Colorado Immunization Program
303-692-2650

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF DOSES REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION
Kindergarten through Grade 12, 2009-10**

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	5/6	5 DTaP or if dose 4 was administered ≥ the 4 th birthday, the requirement is met. (DTaP is only licensed for children under 7 years of age). 1 Tdap for students entering 6 th , 7 th , 8 th & 10 th , 11 th , 12 th grades. (Tdap is only licensed for students 10 or 11 years of age and older).
Tetanus/Diphtheria	3 to 5	5 DT or if dose 4 was administered ≥ the 4 th birthday, the requirement is met. A student 7 to 9 years old who has had only a 2 doses of DTaP or DT (before the age of 7 years) can meet the tetanus/diphtheria requirement by receiving a dose of Td if it is given ≥ 6 months after the 2 nd dose. (Tdap should be given to students ≥ 10 or 11 years to complete the tetanus/diphtheria requirement if possible).
Polio <i>A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.</i>	4	If the 3 rd dose was administered ≥ 4 th birthday, only 3 doses are required.
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) <i>A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.</i>	2	For school certification, the 1 st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1 st birthday. The minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2 is ≥ 28 days.
Varicella (Chickenpox) <i>Documentation of disease from a health care provider(physician, RN or PA) is required or a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.</i>	1 or 2	For school certification, the vaccine cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1 st birthday. 2 doses are required for children entering K, 1 st and 2 nd grades. 1 dose is required for 3 rd through 9 th grades.
Hepatitis B <i>A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.</i>	3	The second dose should be administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose, and the third dose should 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 wks or 6 months of age. The 2-dose series is acceptable for ages 11-15. 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).

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 as indicated above.
2. If a student's Certificate of Immunization is not up to date, the parent, guardian, or emancipated student has 14 days after notification to provide documentation that the next required immunization was administered and submit a written plan for completion of any additional required immunizations. If the plan is not completed, the student shall be expelled or suspended from school for non-compliance. Exception to this is a shortage of vaccine.
3. Statement of Exemption to Immunization Law printed on the reverse side of the 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.



To learn where to obtain immunizations free or at low cost call the Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777.