



Advancing Colorado's health and protecting the places we live, learn, work, and play

Dear parents/guardians of students attending Colorado child cares, preschools, and Head Start programs for the 2023-24 school year:

We know you're thinking of all the things you need to do to make sure your student is ready for child care and school. Getting vaccinated is an important part of their school readiness and keeps children from catching and spreading diseases that can make them sick and potentially disrupt in-person learning. We wish you and your student(s) a healthy school year!

Required and recommended vaccines

- Colorado law requires children who attend a licensed child care, preschool, or Head Start program to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can prevent unless a *Certificate of Exemption* is filed. For more information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines. Your student must be vaccinated against:
 - Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP).
 - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib).
 - Hepatitis B (HepB).
 - Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).
 - Pneumococcal disease (PCV13 or PCV15).
 - Polio (IPV).
 - Varicella (chickenpox).
- Colorado follows recommendations set by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. You can view the recommended vaccine schedule for children 0 through 6 years of age at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html.
- CDC also recommends vaccines are recommended for COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), influenza (flu), and rotavirus (RV), but these are not required for child care or school entry in Colorado.

Exclusion from child care and school

- Your student may be excluded from school if your child care or school does not have an up-to-date *Certificate of Immunization*, *Certificate of Exemption*, or an in-process plan on file for your student.
- If someone is ill with a vaccine-preventable disease or there is an outbreak at your student's school and your student has not received the vaccine for that disease, they may be excluded from school activities. That could mean lost learning time for them and lost work and wages for you. For example, if your student has not received a MMR vaccine, they may be excluded from school for 21 days after someone gets sick with measles.

Have questions?

Talk with a health care provider or your local public health agency (LPHA) about which vaccines your student needs or if you have questions. You can find a vaccine provider at cdphe.colorado.gov/immunizations/get-vaccinated. You can read about the safety and importance of vaccines at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/FAQs.html, childvaccineco.org, ImmunizeForGood.com, and cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education. Staying up to date on routine immunizations is important for adults, as well as children. We encourage parents and guardians to find out what vaccines might be due. It's never too late for families to get back on track! Learn more about vaccines for adults at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html.

Paying for vaccinations

If you need help finding free or low-cost vaccines and providers who give them, go to COVax4Kids.org, contact your local public health agency (find LPHA at cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency), or call the Mile High Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777 to ask about Medicaid contact information and health clinics located in your area.

Vaccination records

- Share your student's updated *Certificate of Immunization* with their school every time they receive a vaccine.

- Need to find your student's vaccine record? It may be available from the [Colorado Immunization Information System \(CIIS\)](#). Visit [COVaxRecords.org](#) for more information, including directions for how to use the CIIS Public Portal to view and print your student's vaccine record.

Exemptions

- If your student cannot get vaccines because of [medical reasons](#), you must submit a *Certificate of Medical Exemption* to your school, signed by a physician (MD, DO), advanced practice nurse (APN), or delegated physician assistant (PA). You only need to submit this certificate once, unless your student's school or information changes. You can get the certificate at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](#).
- If you choose not to have your student vaccinated according to Colorado's school vaccine requirements for reasons that are nonmedical, you must submit a *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* to your school. Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months. These exemptions expire when the next vaccines are due or when the child enrolls in Kindergarten. There are two ways to file a nonmedical exemption.
 1. File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* WITH the signature from an immunizing provider in Colorado who is a physician (MD or DO), advanced practice nurse (APN), delegated physician's assistant (PA), registered nurse (RN), or pharmacist licensed in Colorado; OR
 2. File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption*, which you will be able to access upon completion of the state's online immunization education module.

Downloadable certificates and a link to the online education module are available at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](#).

How's your child care or school doing on vaccinations?

Some parents/guardians/caregivers, especially those with students who have weakened immune systems, may want to know which child cares, preschools, and Head Start programs have the highest immunization rates. Annually, schools must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birth dates) to CDPHE. Schools do not control their specific immunization and exemption rates or establish the Vaccinated Children Standard described in [§25-4-911, CRS](#). Schools must include their MMR immunization and exemption rates from the most recently completed school year in this letter. Schools may choose to also include immunization and exemption rates for other school-required vaccines. Additional immunization and exemption rates can be found at [COVaxRates.org](#).

Child care/Preschool/Head Start name	2021-2022 MMR immunization rate REQUIRED IN LETTER	2021-2022 MMR exemption rate REQUIRED IN LETTER
<i>Schools may also include the rates for the school-required vaccines shown below in this annual letter to parents/guardians</i>		
Vaccinated Children Standard 95% immunization rate for all school-required vaccines	2021-2022 DTaP immunization rate	2021-2022 DTaP exemption rate
	2021-2022 Hib immunization rate	2021-2022 Hib exemption rate
	2021-2022 HepB immunization rate	2021-2022 HepB exemption rate
	2021-2022 IPV immunization rate	2021-2022 IPV exemption rate
2021-2022 PCV13 immunization rate	2021-2022 PCV13 exemption rate	

	2021-2022 Varicella immunization rate	2021-2022 Varicella exemption rate



Child Care Immunization Chart

Vaccines Required for Child Care, Preschool & K-Entry 2022-2023

1. This chart is a "guide" for childcare providers to determine which vaccines children are required to have in order to be in compliance with state immunization requirements. Select the appropriate age range for the student from the left hand column. The number of required doses is located in each of the columns and vaccines are listed across the top of the page. Review the student's immunization record with this chart to make sure they have at least the number of doses required. The Colorado Board of Health has accepted the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) schedule for those immunizations already "required" for attendance. Vaccines that are not required but recommended include: Rotavirus, Hepatitis A and Influenza vaccines.
2. Please follow the ACIP Immunization Schedule, Table 1, Table 2 and Notes, for specific guidance at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>.
3. If the student does not have the minimum number of doses, the parent/guardian is to be directly notified (in person, by phone, or by mail) that their child does not have the required minimum number of vaccine doses. Within 14 days of direct notification from the child care, the parent/guardian is to obtain the required vaccine(s). Parents are to provide a written plan for remaining vaccines following the ACIP Immunization Schedule.
4. Colorado law allows for a Certificate of Medical Exemption to be signed by a healthcare provider and submitted once, unless the student's information or school changes. A Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption is to be submitted by a parent/guardian who chooses to exempt at 2 months, 4 months, 12 months and 18 months of age. Parents and schools can access medical and nonmedical exemption guidance at www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption.

Age of Child	# of required doses DTaP <i>Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis</i>	# of required doses IPV <i>Polio</i>	# of required doses MMR <i>Measles, Mumps and Rubella</i>	# of required doses Hib <i>Haemophilus influenzae type b</i>	# of required doses Hep B <i>Hepatitis B</i>	# of required doses Varicella <i>Chickenpox</i>	# of required doses PCV13 <i>Pneumococcal Disease</i>
By 1 mo.	-	-	-	-	1 [♣]	-	-
By 3 mos.	1	1	-	1	2 [♣]	-	1-
By 5 mos.	2	2	-	2	2 [♣]	-	2-
By 7 mos.	3	2	-	3/2♥	2 [♣]	-	3/2-
By 16 mos.	3	2	1+	4/3/2/1♥	2 [♣]	1*	4/3/2-
By 19 mos.	4	3	1	4/3/2/1♥	3 [♣]	1	4/3/2-
By 2 years	4	3	1	4/3/2/1♥	3 [♣]	1	4/3/2/1-
By K Entry	5/4♠	4/3♣	2		3 [♣]	2	-

- ♠ Five doses of DTaP vaccines are required at school entry in Colorado unless the 4th dose was given at 48 months of age or older (i.e., on or after the 4th birthday) in which case only 4 doses are required. There must be at least 4 weeks between dose 1 and dose 2, at least 4 weeks between dose 2 and dose 3, at least 4 months between dose 3 and dose 4, and at least 6 months between dose 4 and dose 5. The final dose must be given no sooner than 4 years of age (dose 4 may be given at 12 months of age provided there is at least 4 months between dose 3 and dose 4).
- ♣ Four doses of Polio vaccine are required at school entry in Colorado. There must be at least 4 weeks between dose 1 and dose 2, at least 4 weeks between dose 2 and dose 3, and at least 6 months between dose 3 and dose 4. The final dose must be given no earlier than 4 years of age. A 4th dose is not required if the 3rd dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least 6 months after the 2nd dose.
- +
- ♥ The first dose of MMR vaccine given more than 4 days before the 1st birthday is not a valid dose and cannot be accepted. ACIP recommends that the 1st dose of MMR be given between 12 -15 months of age. The student is out of compliance if there is no record of MMR at 16 months of age.
- ♥ The number of Hib doses required depends on the child's current age and the age when the Hib vaccine was administered. If any dose is given at or over 15 months, the Hib requirement is met. For children who begin the series before 12 months, 3 doses are required, of which at least 1 dose must be administered at, or over, 12 months. If the 1st dose was given at 12 to 14 months, 2 doses are required. If the student's current age is 5 years or older, no new or additional doses are required. The number of doses and the intervals may vary depending on the type of Hib vaccine.
- ♣ The Hepatitis B vaccine is the only immunization that can be given as a birth dose. The 2nd dose to be given by 3 mos of age & the 3rd dose is to be given by 19 months of age. Minimum intervals between doses must be followed if a student is on a catch-up schedule: at least 4 weeks between dose 1 and 2, 8 weeks between dose 2 and 3 and 16 weeks between dose 1 and 3. The final dose must be given no earlier than 24 weeks of age. 4 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine are permitted when a combination vaccine is used.
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- If a child has had chickenpox disease and it is documented by a healthcare provider, that child has met the Varicella requirement. Varicella given more than 4 days before the 1st birthday is not a valid dose and cannot be accepted. ACIP recommends a 1st dose between 12 – 15 months. The student is out of compliance if the 1st dose is not given by 16 months of age.
- The number of doses of PCV13 depends on the student's current age and the age when the 1st dose was administered. If the 1st dose was administered between 2 to 6 months of age, the student will receive 3 doses (2, 4 & 6 months of age) at least 4 -8 weeks apart, and a booster dose between 12 – 15 months, at least 8 weeks after the last dose. If started between 7 to 11 months of age, the student will receive 2 doses, at least 8 weeks apart, and a booster dose between 12 to 15 months of age. If the 1st dose was given between 12 to 23 months of age, 2 doses, at least 8 weeks apart, are required. Any dose given at 24 months through 4 years of age, the PCV vaccine requirement is met. No doses are required once the student turns 5 years of age.

