



COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

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

Dear Colorado health care provider:

Colorado School Entry Immunization Law (25-4-901 et seq, C.R.S) and Colorado Board of Health rule (6 CCR 1009-2) require students who attend a public, private or parochial K - 12 school, licensed child care, preschool, or Head Start program to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can prevent, or have a certificate of exemption on file. For more information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines. Students must be vaccinated against:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap)
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Hepatitis B (HepB)
- Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
- Polio (IPV)
- Pneumococcal (PCV13)
- Varicella (chickenpox)

The number, timing and spacing of the required vaccine doses is set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). To be considered valid, a dose of vaccine must meet both the **minimum age and minimum intervals** as defined by ACIP. You can view the current ACIP vaccine schedule for persons 0 - 18 years of age at cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf. Vaccines are recommended for rotavirus, hepatitis A, influenza, meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus, but are not required for school attendance.

Colorado schools are required to review immunization records for school entry and can only accept valid doses of vaccine. Your patients may receive notification of noncompliance if a dose of vaccine does not meet the minimum age or minimum interval requirements, per the ACIP schedule. There are three ways a student can meet the compliance requirements established by Colorado law:

- 1) A student is considered fully immunized if he or she has received all doses of school-required vaccines according to the current ACIP schedule. Note: students are required to receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR and varicella by kindergarten entry and their Tdap by 6th grade entry, even if the student is under 11 years of age.
- 2) A student is in the process of becoming up-to-date on required vaccines within 14 days of being notified by the school and has a written plan from the parent/guardian on file with the school.
- 3) The student's health care provider (medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, advanced practice nurse or delegated physician assistant) has signed a *Certificate of Medical Exemption* because of a condition that precludes the student from receiving vaccine(s), or the student (emancipated or 18 years of age or older) or student's parent/guardian has submitted a *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* either signed by an immunizing provider or obtained after the completion of CDPHE's online education module.

If students do not meet at least one of the compliance criteria, they are not permitted to attend school. If you have questions about the student's school immunization requirement, please communicate with the student's school nurse or school representative.

If you have questions about the ACIP immunization schedule, vaccines marked as invalid in your patient's immunization record, or about Colorado School Entry Immunization Law, please contact us at 303-692-2700 or cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us. If you have questions about the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS), please contact us at 303-692-2437 (option 2), 1-888-611-9918 (option 1) or cdphe.ciis@state.co.us.

Other reliable clinical resources include:

- CDC Vaccines & Immunizations - cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm
- CDC's *Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* - cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/webinar-epv/index.html
- The Immunization Action Coalition: Ask the Experts - immunize.org/askexperts/
- CDC Experts at the National Immunization Program - nipinfo@cdc.gov or 1-800-CDC-Info (1-800-232-4636)