



## K - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade School-required Immunizations for the 2019-20 School Year

Dear parents and guardians of students in Colorado kindergarten - 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools:

- Colorado law requires students who attend a public, private or parochial kindergarten - 12th grade school to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can prevent. Your student must be vaccinated against:
  - diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap)
  - polio (IPV)
  - measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
  - hepatitis B (HepB)
  - varicella (chickenpox)
- Vaccines are recommended for hepatitis A, influenza, meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus, but are not required.
- Colorado rule requires students entering kindergarten to receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR and varicella. Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade must receive one dose of Tdap vaccine, even if they are under 11 years of age.
- The number, timing and spacing of the required vaccine doses is set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). You can view current versions of the ACIP vaccine schedules for children 0 - 6 years of age at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf) and preteens/teens 7 - 18 years of age at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf).
- Please take your student's updated vaccine record to school every time he or she receives a vaccine.
- If your student cannot get vaccines because of medical reasons, you must submit an official *Immunization Medical Exemption Form* to your school, signed by a health care provider licensed to give vaccines. You only need to submit this form once, unless your student's information or school changes. You can get the form at [www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption).
- If you choose not to have your student vaccinated according to the current ACIP schedule for personal belief or religious reasons, you must submit a non-medical exemption to your school. Non-medical exemptions must be submitted every year. Multiple options are available at [www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption).
- Some parents, especially those with students who have weakened immune systems, may want to know which schools have the highest percentage of vaccinated children. Schools must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birth dates) to the state health department by December 1 every year. Immunization and exemption rates can be found at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/school-and-child-care-immunization-data](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/school-and-child-care-immunization-data).
- You may want to talk to a health care provider licensed to give vaccines or your local public health agency (LPHA) about which vaccines your student needs or if you have questions. You can read about the safety and importance of vaccines at [www.ImmunizeForGood.com](http://www.ImmunizeForGood.com) and [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education).
- If you need help finding a health care provider, or finding free or low-cost vaccines, contact your LPHA, or call the state health department's Family Health Line at 1-303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777. You can find your LPHA at [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency).
- Please share Page 2 of this letter with your student's health care provider as it provides helpful information about vaccines required for school entry, per Colorado law.

Sincerely,



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) requires 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. Students must be vaccinated against:

- diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap)
- polio (IPV)
- measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- hepatitis B (HepB)
- haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- 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 [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf](http://www.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.

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 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 an official *Immunization Medical Exemption Form* 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 signed non-medical exemption (religious or personal belief).

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](mailto:cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us). If you have questions about the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS), please contact us at 303-692-2437 (press 2), 1-888-611-9918 (press 1) or [cdphe.ciis@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.ciis@state.co.us).

Other reliable clinical resources include:

- CDC Vaccines & Immunizations - [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm)
- CDC's 13th edition (2015) of *Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases* - [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html) or the 13th edition supplement (2017) - [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/supplement.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/supplement.html).
- The Immunization Action Coalition: Ask the Experts - [www.immunize.org/askexperts/](http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/)
- CDC Experts at the National Immunization Program - [nipinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:nipinfo@cdc.gov) or 1-800-CDC-Info (1-800-232-4636)

Sincerely,

Colorado Immunization Branch | Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment  
303-692-2700 | [cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us)