# 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 2012-13),

Immunizations are an important part of our children's health care, and Colorado law requires that children going to school be vaccinated to prevent vaccine-preventable disease. The purpose of this letter is to let you know which vaccines are ***required*** for school attendance and which vaccines are ***recommend*** for best protection against vaccine-preventable disease (see chart on second page).

As a parent, it is important to know that in addition to the vaccines ***required*** by the state of Colorado Board of Health for school entry, there are vaccines that are ***recommended*** by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This is the immunization schedule that will best protect your child from even more vaccine-preventable diseases.

Parents often have concerns or want more information on 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 Program's website is located at: www.ColoradoImmunizations.com .

Schools work hard to ensure compliance with the immunization laws. Your help in providing updated immunization records at school registration and when your child receives additional vaccine(s) is greatly appreciated. *Please discuss your child's vaccination needs with your child's doctor 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 Program
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
303-692-2650

MINIMUM NUMBER OF DOSES **REQUIRED** FOR CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION
Kindergarten through Grade 12, 2012-13 Required for School Attendance.

| VACCINE | Number of Doses | Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age) |
|---|---|---|
| | *Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid* | |
| **Pertussis**<br>*DTaP only licensed through 6 yrs of age.* | 5 to 6 | 5 **DTaP** ( if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, the requirement is met). The final dose of DTaP must be administered no sooner than 4 years of age. **Tdap** req. 6th through 12th grades. |
| **Tetanus/Diphtheria**<br>*DT only licensed through 6 yrs of age.* | 3 to 5 | 5 **DT (** if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4th 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 3 & 4 |
| **Polio (IPV)** | 3 to 4 | 4 **IPV** ( if dose 3 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, requirement met). Final dose must be given no sooner than 4th birthday. |
| **Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)** | 2 | The 1st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. 2 doses required for K thru 12th grades. |
| **Varicella (Chickenpox)**<br>*Documentation of disease from a health care provider (physician, RN or PA) is required.* | 1 or 2 | The 1st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. 2 doses are required for children entering K through 5th grade. 1 dose is required for 6th through 12th grades. |
| **Hepatitis B**<br>*Students who have not received 3 doses of Hep B vaccine prior to 7/1/2009 must follow the minimum intervals recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)* | 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)<br>*Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid* |
|---|---|---|
| **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.
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 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 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.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**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.

***Call about free or low cost vaccines at Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777***