COLORADO
Department of Public Health & Environment

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

Dear parents/guardians of students in Colorado kindergarten – 12th grade schools for the 2022-23 school year:

We know you're thinking of all the things you need to do to make sure your student is ready for 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 a healthy school year!

Required and recommended vaccines

- Colorado law requires students who attend a public, private, or parochial kindergarten - 12th grade school to be vaccinated against many of the diseases that 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, DTP, Tdap).
    - Hepatitis B (Hep B).
    - Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).
    - Polio (IPV).
    - Varicella (chickenpox).
- Colorado follows recommendations set by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Students must receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR, and varicella prior to kindergarten entry. Students entering sixth grade must receive one dose of Tdap vaccine prior to entry, even if they are younger than 11-years-old. You can view recommended vaccine schedules at cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/parents-adults/resources-parents.html.
- Vaccines are recommended for hepatitis A, influenza, meningococcal disease, and human papillomavirus, but are not required for school entry.

Exclusion from school

- Your student may be excluded from school if your school does not have an up-to-date C*ertificate of Immunization, Certificate of Exemption*, or in-process plan on file for your student.
- If someone gets sick 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 healthcare 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 https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/FAQs.html, https://childvaccineco.org/, ImmunizeForGood.com, and cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education.

Paying for vaccinations

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

Vaccination records

- Please take your student's updated C*ertificate of Immunization* to 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 health care provider licensed to give vaccines. You only need to submit this certificate once, unless your student's information or school changes. You can get the form at cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions.

- If you choose not to have your student vaccinated according to the current recommended schedule, you must submit a *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* to your school. Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted annually at every new school year (July 1st through June 30th of the following year). There are two ways to file a nonmedical exemption.
    - File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* WITH a signature from an immunizing provider, OR
    - File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* received upon the completion of our online education module.
- Downloadable certificates and our online education module are available at cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions.

How's your school doing on vaccinations?

Some parents, especially those with students who have weakened immune systems, may want to know which schools have the highest percent of vaccinated students. Schools must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birth dates) to the state health department annually. 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.

<table>
<tr><th>School Name</th><th>2020-2021 MMR Immunization Rate
REQUIRED IN LETTER</th><th>2020-2021 MMR Exemption Rate
REQUIRED IN LETTER</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Schools may also include the rates for the school-required vaccines shown below in this annual letter to parents/guardians</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="8">Vaccinated Children Standard
95% Immunization Rate for All School-Required Vaccines</td><td>2020-2021 DTaP/Tdap Immunization Rate</td><td>2020-2021 DTaP/Tdap Exemption Rate</td></tr>
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<tr><td>2020-2021 HepB Immunization Rate</td><td>2020-2021 HepB Exemption Rate</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>2020-2021 IPV Immunization Rate</td><td>2020-2021 IPV Exemption Rate</td></tr>
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<tr><td>2020-2021 Varicella Immunization Rate</td><td>2020-2021 Varicella Exemption Rate</td></tr>
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