COLORADO
Department of Public Health & Environment

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

Dear families of students attending Colorado child cares and preschools for the 2025-26 school year:
This letter includes important information about Colorado's school and child care vaccine requirements. There's nothing more important than making sure your child or children stay healthy and learning all year long. Getting vaccinated gives children the best chance of staying healthy and in school.

Colorado law requires children who attend a licensed child care or preschool to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can protect against, unless a Certificate of Exemption is filed. For more information, visit https://cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-policy-and-board-health-rules. Before a child's first day of school, families are responsible for providing an up-to-date immunization record, an in-process plan, or a Certificate of Exemption to each school the child attends. An in-process plan is written by your child's immunizing provider and shows that your child is following the ACIP schedule to catch up on missing dose(s) of one or more school-required vaccines.

Getting vaccinated and following the recommended schedule is important. Think of vaccines as a special training program for the body, teaching it how to fight off harmful germs. The protection from vaccines can last a very long time, which helps to keep your child, your family, and your community safe and healthy.

Vaccines required for child care and preschool
To attend preschool and child care, your child must be vaccinated against:

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

Get kindergarten ready: *Colorado law requires children between the ages of 4 and 6 years to receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR, and varicella vaccines **before** kindergarten entry.

Number of doses and spacing of vaccines:
Colorado follows recommendations set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. This committee is a group of medical and public health experts who study vaccines and recommend them for the public. View the recommended vaccine schedule for children birth through 6 years of age at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-schedules/child-easyread.htm.

Vaccines that are not required for child care and preschool but are recommended include:
COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and rotavirus (RV). The timing and spacing of these vaccines also follow the recommended vaccine schedule for children birth through 6 years of age.

Vaccination records
Share your child's updated Certificate of Immunization with their school every time they receive a vaccine. Need to find your child's vaccine record? Visit COVaxRecords.org for more information.

Exclusion from child care and school
If there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at your child's school, and your child has not received the vaccine for that disease, they may be required to stay home for many days. That could mean lost learning time for them and lost work and wages for you. For example, if your child has not received an MMR vaccine, they may need to stay home from school for 21 days after someone gets sick with measles.

Exemptions from one or more school-required vaccines
If your child cannot get vaccines for medical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Medical Exemption to your school. If you choose not to have your child vaccinated for nonmedical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption to your school. Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted at 2, 4, 6, 12, and 18 months of age. These exemptions expire when the next vaccines are due or when the child enrolls in kindergarten. Find more information about exemptions at https://cdphe.colorado.gov/exemptions-to-school-required-vaccines,

Have questions?
Talk with a health care provider or your local public health agency to ask questions and find out which vaccines your child needs. Find a vaccine provider at cdphe.colorado.gov/get-vaccinated. Read about the benefits and importance of vaccines at cdc.gov/vaccines-children/about/index.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. It's never too late for adults to get back on track! Learn more at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-adults/recommended-vaccines/.

Finding and paying for vaccinations
If you need help finding free or low-cost vaccines, go to COVax4Kids.org or https://cdphe.colorado.gov/immunizations/get-vaccinated, or dial 2-1-1 for information on Health First Colorado (Medicaid) and vaccine clinics in your area.

How is your child care or school doing on vaccinations?
Annually, schools and child cares 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 of 95% for all school-required vaccines, described in §25-4-911, CRS.

Your child care or preschool's immunization rates from the 2023-24 school year. (Find 2023-24 school year and prior years' data at COVaxRates.org).

Child care or preschool name	2023-24 MMR immunization rate (required)	2023-24 MMR exemption rate (required)
Welchester Preschool	94.6%	2.7%

Schools may choose to include rates for other school-required vaccines below.

2023-24 HepB immunization rate	2023-24 HepB exemption rate
91.9%	2.7%
2023-24 DTaP immunization rate	**2023-24 DTaP exemption rate**
94.6%	2.7%
2023-24 Hib immunization rate	**2023-24 Hib exemption rate**
94.6%	2.7%

2023-24 PCV immunization rate	2023-24 PCV exemption rate
91.9%	2.7%
2023-24 IPV immunization rate	**2023-24 IPV exemption rate**
94.6%	2.7%
2023-24 varicella immunization rate	**2023-24 varicella exemption rate**
94.6%	2.7%