



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

**Dear parents/guardians of students attending Colorado child cares and preschools for the 2024-25 school year:** We know there's nothing more important than making sure your children stay healthy and learning all year long. Getting vaccinated keeps children from catching and spreading diseases that can make them sick and potentially keep them home from child care and preschool. This letter includes important information about Colorado's school and child care vaccine requirements, as well as other resources.

### Required and recommended vaccines

Colorado law requires children who attend licensed child care and preschool to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can prevent, unless a Certificate of Exemption is filed. For more information, visit [cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines).

To attend preschool and child care your child must be vaccinated against:

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

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 through 6 years of age at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html).

CDC also recommends immunizations for COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and rotavirus (RV) for child care-aged children, but these are not required for child care or school entry in Colorado.

This recommended schedule is safe and effective. It's based on how your child's immune system responds to vaccines at various ages, and how likely your child is to be exposed to a particular disease.

### Exclusion from child care and school

Your child may be excluded if their program does not have an up-to-date Certificate of Immunization, Certificate of Exemption, or an in-process plan on file for your child.

If someone is sick or 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. 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 their program for 21 days after someone gets sick with measles.

### 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](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/get-vaccinated). Read about the safety and importance of vaccines at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/FAQs.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/FAQs.html), [childvaccineco.org](https://childvaccineco.org), [ImmunizeForGood.com](https://ImmunizeForGood.com), and [cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education](https://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 families to get back on track! Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html).

### Paying for vaccinations

If you need help finding free or low-cost vaccines, go to [COVax4Kids.org](https://COVax4Kids.org), contact your local public health agency ([cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency)), or dial 2-1-1 for information on Health First Colorado (Medicaid) and vaccine clinics in your area.

### Vaccination records

Share your child's updated Certificate of Immunization with their program every time they receive a vaccine.

Need to find your child's vaccine record? It may be available from the [Colorado Immunization Information System \(CIIS\)](#). Visit [COVaxRecords.org](#) for more information, including directions on how to view and print your student's vaccine record.

**Exemptions**

If your child cannot get vaccines for medical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Medical Exemption to your school, signed by an advanced practice nurse (APN), physician (MD, DO), or physician assistant (PA) licensed to practice in any state or territory in the United States. You only need to submit this certificate once, unless your student's school or information changes. Get the form at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](#).

If you choose not to have your child vaccinated according to Colorado's school vaccine requirements for nonmedical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption to your preschool or child care program. 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. There are two ways to obtain a nonmedical exemption.

1. Submit the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption signed by an advanced practice nurse (APN), pharmacist, physician (MD or DO), physician assistant (PA), or registered nurse (RN), licensed in Colorado, or
2. Submit the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption you will be able to access after completing the state's Online Immunization Education Module.

Find certificates and the Online Immunization Education Module at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](#).

**How's your child care or school doing on vaccinations?**

Annually, programs must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birthdates) to CDPHE. Programs do not control their specific immunization and exemption rates or establish the Vaccinated Children Standard described in [§25-4-911, CRS](#).

Your child's program's immunization rates from the 2022-23 school year. Find previous years' data at <a href="#">COVaxRates.org</a> .		
Child care or preschool name	2022-23 MMR immunization rate (required)	2022-23 MMR exemption rate (required)
<i>Schools may choose to include rates for other school-required vaccines.</i>		
Vaccinated Children Standard 95% immunization rate for all school-required vaccines	2022-23 DTaP immunization rate	2022-23 DTaP exemption rate
	2022-23 Hib immunization rate	2022-23 Hib exemption rate
	2022-23 HepB immunization rate	2022-23 HepB exemption rate
	2022-23 PCV immunization rate	2022-23 PCV exemption rate
	2022-23 Polio immunization rate	2022-23 Polio exemption rate
	2022-23 varicella immunization rate	2022-23 varicella exemption rate

**Immunization Branch**  
**Child care immunization table**

**Vaccines required for preschool and kindergarten entry, 2023-2024**

1. This table may be used as a **guide** for early childhood professionals to evaluate which school-required vaccines are needed in order to comply with state immunization requirements. Use the student's age to select the appropriate row. *Example, for a student who is 4 months and 3 weeks, use the "3 month" row as the student is not yet 5 months of age.* Review the student's immunization record with this table to ensure they have at least the number of doses required. The Colorado Board of Health uses the [immunization schedule](#) developed by the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP). Vaccines that are not required for school but recommended by ACIP for this age group include: Rotavirus (RV), Hepatitis A (HepA), influenza (Flu), COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Note that the table does not include vaccines that are not required for school. Schools and child cares are encouraged to enroll in the [Colorado Immunization Information System \(CIIS\)](#) which allows users to lookup, review, and print immunization records. Email [cdphe\\_ciis\\_schools@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_ciis_schools@state.co.us) for more information.

2. Immunization requirements must be strictly enforced for all students. Students who do not meet the requirements must be denied attendance according to Colorado Revised Statutes § 25-4-902. There are three ways to be in compliance with the school immunization law:
- I. Student's immunization record documented on the [Colorado Certificate of Immunization](#) or [Approved Alternate Certificate of Immunization](#), shows they are fully immunized with required vaccines. A [laboratory report](#) for select vaccines or diseases showing immunity is also acceptable.
  - II. For students who are not up to date on required vaccines, the school must directly notify the parent/guardian that the student has 14 days to receive the required vaccine(s). Parents are to provide a written plan for the remaining vaccines following the [minimum intervals of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\) schedule](#). If the plan is not followed, the student must be excluded from school for non-compliance.
  - III. Submission of a [Certificate of Medical Exemption](#) signed by a healthcare provider, (MD, DO, APN, PA) or a [Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption](#) signed by an immunizing healthcare provider or obtained after the completion of CDPHE's Online Immunization Education Module. A Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption is to be submitted by a parent/guardian when immunizations are due following the ACIP immunization schedule at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months of age.

By \_\_\_ months of age, the child is required to have received \_\_\_ doses of vaccine.

Age of child	Number of required doses:						
	Hepatitis (HepB)*	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTaP)†	Haemophilus influenzae B (Hib)‡	Polio (IPV)§	Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV)#	Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)**	Varicella (Chickenpox)††
1 month	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
3 months	2	1	1	1	1	--	--
5 months	2	2	2	2	2	--	--
7 months	2	3	3/2	2	3/2	--	--
16 months	2	3	4/3/2/1	2	4/3/2	1	1
19 months	3	4	4/3/2/1	3	4/3/2	1	1
24 months	3	4	4/3/2/1	3	4/3/2/1	1	1
By K entry††	3	5/4	--	4/3	--	2	2

*Per CDC: catch up refers to, "those who start late or who are more than 1 month behind." Once a child catches up to the number of doses required for their age, use the standard recommendation for timing future vaccinations.*

\*HepB is a 3-dose series at 0, 1-2, and 6-18 months of age. The minimum age for the final dose is 24 weeks of age. If dose 3 is given prior to 24 weeks of age, a 4th dose is required. 4 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine are permitted when a combination vaccine is used. Catch up: Older students require a minimum of 3 appropriately spaced doses (minimum intervals 0, 4 weeks, 8 weeks and at least 16 weeks after first dose).

†DTaP is a 5-dose series at 2, 4, 6, 15-18 months, and 4-6 years of age. By kindergarten entry, 5 doses of DTaP are required or 4 doses if the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday and was given at least 6 months after dose 3. Catch up: for children 4 months through 6 years of age, use [CDC's DTaP catch up guidance job aid](#) (PDF).

‡Hib is a 3 or 4-dose series depending on product type - 3-doses with PedvaxHIB (2, 4, 12-15 months) or 4-doses at 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months of age for other products or mixed schedules. Catch up: If any dose of Hib is given at or over 15 months through 4 years of age, the Hib requirement is met. Previously unvaccinated children who are 60 months or older do not require Hib vaccination. For children 4 months through 4 years of age, use [CDC's Hib catch up guidance job aid](#) (PDF) ([CDC's catch up guidance job aid for PedVaxHib only](#) PDF).

§IPV is a 4-dose series at 2, 4, 6-18 months, and 4-6 years of age. By kindergarten entry, 4 doses of IPV are required or 3 doses if the third dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday and was given at least 6 months after dose 2. The final dose must be given no earlier than 4 years of age. Catch up: for children 4 months through 17 years of age, use [CDC's IPV catch up guidance job aid](#) (PDF).

#PCV is a four dose series given at 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months of age. Catch up: If any dose of PCV is given at 24 months through 4 years of age, the PCV requirement is met. Previously unvaccinated children who are 60 months or older do not require PCV vaccination. For children 4 months through 4 years of age, use [CDC's PCV catch up job aid](#) (PDF).

\*\*MMR is a two dose series given at 12-15 months and 4-6 years of age. Dose 1 is not valid if administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. 2 valid doses are required for students entering Kindergarten. Catch up: Unvaccinated children: 2-dose series at least 4 weeks apart.

††Varicella or chickenpox is a two dose series given at 12-15 months and 4-6 years of age. Dose 1 is not valid if administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. 2 valid doses are required for students entering Kindergarten. Catch up: Unvaccinated children: 2-dose series at least 3 months apart. Note: If a child has previous varicella disease, documented by a healthcare provider or a [positive antibody titer](#), the child has met the varicella requirement.

