

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor
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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

April 8, 2008

Dear Parents of Children in Colorado Child Care Settings,

Immunizations are an important part of our children's health care because they protect against vaccine preventable diseases. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the vaccines your child will be required to have in order to attend a Colorado child care in the 2008-09 school year. Making sure that your child is fully immunized prior to the start of the school year will ensure that your child is in compliance with the rules pertaining to the immunizations of students attending school. Please bring your child's immunization records to the school at enrollment or registration and notify the school each time your child receives an immunization.

Included in this letter is the document entitled, "*Minimum Number of Immunization Doses Required: Child Care through Preschool, 2008-09.*" The chart in the document should assist you in determining which required vaccines your child will need for child care attendance. Child care centers/homes work hard to ensure compliance with the immunization laws and your assistance in providing updated immunization records to your child's child care at enrollment is greatly appreciated. (There are additional shots that your health care provider or immunization clinic may recommend).

Sincerely,

Jamie Damico, RN, MSN, CNS
Colorado Immunization Program
303-692-2650

MINIMUM NUMBER OF IMMUNIZATION DOSES REQUIRED
Child Care thru Preschool, 2008-09

VACCINE	LEVEL OF SCHOOL/AGE OF CHILD				
	Child Care 2 to 3 months	Child Care 4 to 5 months	Child Care 6 to 14 months	Child Care 15 to 17 months	Preschool 18 months to 4 years
	<i>Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid</i>				
Pertussis	1	2	3	4	4
Tetanus/Diphtheria	1	2	3	4	4
Polio: A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.	1	2	3	3	3
Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib): If any dose is administered at ≥ 15 months of age, the requirement is met. If a child begins the series at < 12 months of age, 3 doses are required of which 1 dose must be administered no more than 4 days before the 1 st birthday. If the 1 st dose is administered at 12 to 14 months of age, 2 doses are required. If a child is ≥ 5 years of age or older, the vaccine is no longer required.	1	2	3/2	3/2/1	3/2/1
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR): For school certification, the 1 st dose cannot be administered < the 1 st birthday. A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.	0	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis B: A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.	1	2	2	2	3
Varicella (Chickenpox): For school certification, the 1 st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1 st birthday. Documentation of the disease from a health care provider is required or a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.	0	0	0	1	1
Prevnar/PCV7 (Pneumococcal Disease): If the current age of the child is 2, no new additional doses are required. If the 1 st dose was administered at: a) ≤ 6months, 3 doses are required at 6 to 14 months and 4 doses are required at 15 to 23 months with 1 dose administered on or after the 1 st birthday; b) 7 to 11 months, 2 doses are required at 6 to 14 months and 3 doses are required at 15 to 23 months with 1 dose on or after the 1 st birthday; c) 12 to 23 months, 2 doses are required.	1	2	4/3/2	4/3/2	4/3/2

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 as indicated above.
2. If a student's Certificate of Immunization is not up to date, the parent, guardian, or emancipated student has 14 days after 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 is a shortage of vaccine.
3. Statement of Exemption to Immunization Law printed on the reverse side of the 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.



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.

To learn where to obtain immunizations free or at low cost, call the Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777 or the Colorado Helpline: 1-877-462-2911.