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 kindergarten through 12th grade schools for the 2026-27 school year:

This letter includes important information and other resources about Colorado's immunization requirements to attend school. There's nothing more important than making sure your child stays healthy and learning all year long. Routine vaccination can prevent the spread of diseases like measles, mumps, varicella (chickenpox), whooping cough, and others, so kids can just be kids. The vast majority of Colorado families choose to protect their children through vaccination.

Colorado law requires students attending school to be vaccinated against many diseases, unless a certificate of exemption is filed. For more information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-policy-and-board-health-rules. Before your student's first day of school, you are responsible for providing at least one of the following to each school your student attends:

1. An up-to-date immunization record.
2. An in-process plan (example).
3. A Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption for any missing doses of school-required vaccine(s).

Vaccines required to attend school (K-12)	Number of valid doses* to start kindergarten and attend school (K-12)
Hepatitis B (HepB)	3 doses
Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)	5 doses
Polio (IPV)	4 doses
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	2 doses
Varicella (chickenpox)	2 doses
In addition, at seventh grade entry, your child is required to have:	
Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)	1 dose

*If your child is or was behind on routine vaccines, the number of doses may vary. Colorado's school (K-12) immunization table can help you and your child's health care provider determine if your child has the required number of doses.

Colorado requires vaccines to be given following the vaccine schedules outlined in Colorado Board of Health rule 6 CCR 1009-2 for the number and spacing of doses of the required vaccines. View the recommended vaccine schedule for children birth through 6 years and children/adolescents 7-18 years of age. **Get seventh-grade ready:** Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, Colorado law requires adolescents to receive one dose of Tdap **before their first day of** seventh grade. Adolescents who had a Tdap at sixth-grade entry for the 2025-2026 school year do not need another dose for seventh grade. Questions? Refer to the Tdap letter, linked on our school webpage.

There are other vaccines that are not required for K-12 school but recommended, including: COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza (flu), and meningococcal disease (MenACWY and MenB).

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

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

Exemptions from one or more school-required vaccines
Medical Exemption. If your health care provider determines that your student cannot get vaccines for medical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Medical Exemption to your school.
Nonmedical Exemption. If you choose not to have your student vaccinated for nonmedical reasons, you must submit a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption to your school. 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.
2. Submit the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption you will be able to access after completing Colorado's Online Immunization Education Module.

Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted on an annual basis. Find more information about exemptions at 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 student needs. Read about the benefits and importance of vaccines at childvaccineco.org, HealthyChildren.org, and cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education.

Finding and paying for vaccinations
Find a vaccine provider at cdphe.colorado.gov/get-vaccinated. Visit COVax4Kids.org to find free or low-cost vaccines. Dial 2-1-1 for information on Health First Colorado (Medicaid) and vaccine clinics in your area.

How is your school doing on vaccinations?
Annually, schools and child cares must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birthdates) to the state health department. Colorado law established the Vaccinated Children Standard of 95% for all school-required vaccines, described in §25-4-911, CRS, and schools do not control their specific immunization and exemption rates.

Your child's school's immunization rates from the 2024-2025 school year.
(Find 2024-2025 school year and prior years' data at COVaxRates.org).

School name	2024-2025 MMR immunization rate (required)	2024-2025 MMR exemption rate (required)
Big Sandy School District	89.8%	8.9%

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

2024-2025 HepB immunization rate	2024-2025 HepB exemption rate
93.2%	5.5%
2024-2025 DTaP immunization rate	**2024-2025 DTaP exemption rate**
91.5%	7.6%
2024-2025 Tdap immunization rate	**2024-2025 Tdap exemption rate**
88%	8%

2024-2025 IPV immunization rate	2024-2025 IPV exemption rate
90.7%	8%
2024-2025 chickenpox immunization rate	**2024-2025 chickenpox exemption rate**
89.4%	9.3%