STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530
Phone (303) 692-2000
Located in Glendale, Colorado

Laboratory Services Division
8100 Lowry Blvd.
Denver, Colorado 80230-6928
(303) 692-3090

http://www.cdphe.state.co.us

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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Dear Parents of Students in Colorado Schools, K through 12th Grades (School Year 2013-14),

Immunizations are an important part of our children's health care, and Colorado law requires that children going to school be vaccinated to prevent vaccine-preventable disease. The purpose of this letter is to let you know which vaccines are ***required*** for school attendance and which vaccines are ***recommended*** for best protection against vaccine-preventable disease (see chart on second page).

As a parent, it is important to know that in addition to the vaccines ***required*** by the state of Colorado Board of Health for school entry, there are vaccines that are ***recommended*** by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This is the immunization schedule that will best protect your child from even more vaccine-preventable diseases.

Parents often have concerns or want more information on children's immunizations and vaccine safety. A resource developed for parents with frequently asked questions about the safety and importance of vaccines can be located at: www.ImmunizeForGood.com . The Colorado Immunization Program's website is located at: www.ColoradoImmunizations.com .

Schools work hard to ensure compliance with the immunization laws. Your help in providing updated immunization records at school registration and when your child receives additional vaccine(s) is greatly appreciated. *Please discuss your child's vaccination needs with your child's doctor or local public health agency. (To find your local public health department's contact information call the Family Health Line at 1-303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777). Please bring your child's updated immunization records to the school each time your child receives an immunization.*

Sincerely,

Colorado Immunization Program
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
303-692-2650

MINIMUM NUMBER OF DOSES **REQUIRED** FOR CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION
Kindergarten through Grade 12, 2013-14 Required for School Attendance.

VACCINE	Number of Doses	Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age)
	Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid	
Pertussis *DTaP only licensed through 6 yrs of age.*	5 to 6	5 **DTaP** (if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, the requirement is met). The final dose of DTaP must be administered no sooner than 4 years of age. **Tdap** req. 6th through 12th grades.
Tetanus/Diphtheria *DT only licensed through 6 yrs of age.*	3 to 5	5 **DT (** if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, the requirement is met). If child is 7 yrs of age or older, must have 3 appropriately spaced tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccines (DTaP, DT, Td, Tdap) - 4 wks between dose 1 & 2 and 6 mos between dose 2 & 3
Polio (IPV)	3 to 4	4 **IPV** (if dose 3 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, requirement met). Final dose must be given no sooner than 4th birthday.
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR) *Proposed for this school year – 1 dose of Rubella meets requirement.*	2	The 1st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. 2 doses required for K thru 12th grades.
Varicella (Chickenpox) *Documentation of disease from a health care provider (physician, RN or PA) is required.*	1 or 2	The 1st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. 2 doses are required for children entering K through 6th grade. 1 dose is required for 7th through 12th grades.
Hepatitis B *Students who have not received 3 doses of Hep B vaccine prior to 7/1/2009 must follow the minimum intervals recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*	3	The second dose must be administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose. The third dose must be administered at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The final dose is to be administered no sooner than 24 weeks (6 mos) of age. The 2-dose series is acceptable for ages 11-15 years. 2 doses can only be accepted using the approved vaccine for the 2-dose series with proper documentation (name of the vaccine, dosage, dates, and interval).

RECOMMENDED VACCINES FOR THE BEST PROTECTION AGAINST VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE

VACCINE	Number of Doses	Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age) *Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid*
Influenza (Flu)	1 to 2	2 doses initially if under 9 yrs of age with a minimum interval of 28 days between doses, then 1 dose annually, thereafter. Recommended for children 6 months of age and older.
Meningococcal Meningitis (MCV)	1 to 2	Adolescents 11-18 years of age
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	3	Adolescents 11-18 years of age.
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	2	All children 1 year and older

For REQUIRED vaccines: A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.

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.
2. If a student's Certificate of Immunization is not up to date, the parent/guardian or emancipated student has 14 days after direct 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 rule is a shortage of vaccine.
3. Statement of Exemption to Immunization - 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.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Call about free or low cost vaccines at Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777