

STATE OF COLORADO

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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

March 23, 2010

Dear Parents of Children in Colorado Child Care and Preschools,

Immunizations are an important part of our children's health care and Colorado law requires that children going to Child Care or Preschool be vaccinated to prevent vaccine preventable disease. The purpose of this letter is to let you know which vaccines your child will be **required** to have in order to attend a center or school in 2010-11:

- **Hepatitis B (Hep B)** – Three doses are required for children by 15 months of age to protect against a serious liver disease that can lead to liver damage, liver cancer and death.
- **Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (DTaP/DT)** – 4 doses of DTaP or DT are required for children by 18 months of age with a 5th dose at kindergarten entry. DTaP is the vaccine that protects against tetanus (a disease that causes painful muscle stiffness, convulsions and death) and diphtheria (a disease that can cause suffocation, paralysis, heart failure and death). The pertussis portion of the DTaP protects against whooping cough which can lead to pneumonia, seizures and death. DT is for children unable to receive the pertussis part of the vaccine.
- **Polio (IPV)** – 3 doses of the vaccine are required by 8 months of age and a 4th dose is needed at kindergarten entry. The vaccine protects against paralysis, typically of the legs, as well as the muscles that help us breathe.
- **Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)** – 1 dose of this vaccine is required by age 15 months to protect against three diseases. (2 doses are required at kindergarten entry). Measles can cause ear infection, pneumonia, seizures, inflammation of the brain and death. Mumps can lead to deafness, meningitis and painful swelling of the testicles or ovaries and occasionally, death. Rubella in pregnant women can cause miscarriage or serious birth defects to the unborn child.
- **Varicella or Chickenpox (Var)** – 1 dose is required for children by 15 month of age and 2 doses are required for kindergarten entry. This vaccine protects against chickenpox disease, a rash illness that can lead to skin infections, pneumonia, swelling of the brain and on occasion, death.
- **Pneumococcal Disease (PCV7 or PCV13)** - If the current age of the child is 2, no new additional doses are required. If the 1st dose was administered at: a) 6 months of age or younger, 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 1st 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 1st birthday; c) 12 to 23 months, 2 doses are required. This vaccine protects against pneumonia, bacteremia (a blood infection), meningitis, ear infections.
- **Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)** - If any dose is administered at or over 15 months of age, the requirement is met. If a child begins the series at less than 12 months of age, 3 doses are required of which 1 dose must be administered no more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. If the 1st 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. This disease can affect many organs of the body causing meningitis, epiglottitis which can cause breathing difficulties, bone and joint infections, ear infections and sometimes death.

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 or to locate low cost vaccines contact the Family Health Line at 1-303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777). Please bring your child's immunization records to your child care center or family child care home each time your child receives an immunization.

Sincerely,

The Colorado Immunization Program - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Website: www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/immunization 303-692-2957

MINIMUM NUMBER OF IMMUNIZATION DOSES REQUIRED
Child Care through Preschool, 2010-11

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 or over 15 months of age, the requirement is met. If a child begins the series at less than 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 more than 4 days before 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. The 2nd dose must be administered at least 4 wks after the 1st dose. The 3rd dose must be administered at least 16 weeks after the 1st dose and at least 8 weeks after the 2nd dose. The final dose is to be administered no sooner than 24 wks or 6 months of age. (Those students who have not received 3 doses by 7/1/09 are required to follow these minimum intervals)	1	2	2/3	3	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
PCV7 or PCV13 (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) at or over 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.

