

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

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Dear Parents of Childcare and School-Aged Children:

On January 17, 2007, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Board of Health approved additional vaccine requirements for children in childcare settings and schools beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the specific rule changes and to provide reasons for the new requirements.

Pneumococcal Disease (Pneumovax/PV7)

Pneumonia is a contagious disease that can have serious effects in infants and young children. The vaccine, Pneumovax (PV7), is an effective immunization given in a series to children to prevent pneumonia. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the routine vaccination of preschool children with the PV7 vaccine. It will now be required for children in licensed child care in Colorado. See the attached Table 1 for the specific age and dose requirements.

Chickenpox (Varicella)

Varicella or chickenpox is a disease that is very contagious, and there continue to be outbreaks of the disease in Colorado as well as other states around the country. Because of continued outbreaks, even in children who have had one injection of Varicella vaccine, the CDC has now recommended a routine second dose of Varicella vaccine. Colorado will now be requiring a second dose of Varicella vaccine beginning at kindergarten entry. This second dose will be implemented on a step-by-step schedule, and every year, a new grade will be required to comply with the requirement. See the attached tables for additional information on this requirement.

Beginning in the new school year, if a child has had chickenpox disease, a laboratory test showing immunity or a documented disease history from a health care provider is acceptable. The CDC has recommended routine vaccination of all children who do not have documented disease history by a medical provider or a laboratory test documenting immunity. In Colorado, children will need to have the appropriate documentation or two doses of Varicella vaccine at kindergarten entry.

Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap)

Pertussis or whooping cough can be a very serious disease in infants and small children. It has been found that frequently, siblings who have Pertussis disease can expose other children in the household. Colorado ranks fifth of all states in the country with this disease. The CDC recommends all 11 to 12-year-old adolescents receive a dose of Tdap routinely. In Colorado, Tdap vaccine will be required for all 6th and 10th graders this upcoming school year, and in subsequent years, that schedule will include other grades. See the attached tables for the specific grade and dose requirements.

Please note: If immunizations are against your **religious beliefs**, you must sign the religious exemption on the reverse side of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Certificate of Immunization. If your child cannot be immunized for **medical reasons**, a physician must sign the medical exemption on the reverse side of the Certificate of Immunization. If you have a **personal belief opposed to immunizations**, you must sign the personal exemption on the reverse side of the Certificate.

Table 1. MINIMUM NUMBER OF DOSES REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATE OF IMMUNIZATION

VACCINE ^a	Level of School/Age of Student											
	Child Care 2 to 3 mos	Child Care 4 to 5 mos	Child Care 6 to 7 mos	Child Care 8 to 11 mos	Child Care 12 to 14 mos	Child Care 15 to 17 mos	Child Care 18 to 23 mos	Preschool 2 to 4 yrs	K Entry 4 to 6 yrs	Grades K to 5 5 to 10 yrs	Grades 6 to 12 11 to 18 yrs	College
Pertussis/ Tetanus/ Diphtheria	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5/4 ^b	5/4 ^{b c}	6 ^{c d}	
Polio ^e	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4/3 ^f	4/3 ^f	4/3 ^f	
Measles/ Mumps/ Rubella ^g					1	1	1	1	2 ^h	2 ^h	2 ^h	2 ^{h i}
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) ^j	1	2	2	3/2	3/2	3/2/1	3/2/1	3/2/1				
Pneumococcal Conjugate ^k	1	2	3/2	3/2	4/3/2	4/3/2	4/3/2					
Hepatitis B ^l	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Varicella ^m					1	1	1	1	2 ⁿ	2 ⁿ	2 ^{n o}	
Meningococcal												^p

a Vaccine doses administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum interval or age are to be counted as valid.

b Five doses of pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria vaccines are required at school entry in Colorado unless the 4th dose was given at ≥ 48 months (i.e., on or after the 4th birthday) in which case only 4 doses are required.

c For students ≥ 7 years who have not had the required number of pertussis doses, no new or additional doses are required. Any student ≥ 7 years at school entry in Colorado who has not completed a primary series of 3 appropriately spaced doses of tetanus and diphtheria vaccine may be certified after the 3rd dose of tetanus and diphtheria vaccine (or tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine if 10 or 11 years) if it is given > 6 months after the 2nd dose.

d The student must meet the minimum prior requirement for the 4th or 5th doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine and have 1 tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine dose.

e For polio, in lieu of immunization, written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.

- f Four doses of polio vaccine are required at school entry in Colorado unless the 3rd dose was given ≥ 48 months (i.e., on or after the 4th birthday) in which case only 3 doses are required. Four valid doses are a complete series regardless of age at completion.
- g For measles, mumps, and rubella, in lieu of immunization, written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable for the specific disease tested. The 1st dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine must have been administered at ≥ 12 months of age (i.e., on or after the 1st birthday) to be acceptable.
- h The 2nd dose of measles vaccine or measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine must have been administered at least 28 calendar days after the 1st dose.
- i Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine is not required for college students born before January 1, 1957.
- j The number of Hib vaccine doses required depends on the student's current age and the age when the vaccine was administered. If any dose was given ≥ 15 months, the Hib vaccine requirement is met. For students who began the series < 12 months, 3 doses are required of which at least 1 dose must have been administered at ≥ 12 months (i.e., on or after the 1st birthday). If the 1st dose was given at 12 to 14 months, 2 doses are required. If the current age is ≥ 5 years, no new or additional doses are required.
- k The number of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine doses depends on the student's current age and the age when the 1st dose was administered. If the 1st dose was administered at: (i) ≤ 6 months, 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; (ii) 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; (iii) 12 to 23 months, 2 doses are required. If the current age is ≥ 2 years, no new or additional doses are required.
- l For hepatitis B, in lieu of immunization, written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.
- m For varicella, written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity or a documented disease history from a health care provider is acceptable. The 1st dose of varicella vaccine must have been administered at ≥ 12 months of age (i.e., on or after the 1st birthday) to be acceptable.
- n The second dose of varicella vaccine must have been administered at least 28 calendar days after the 1st dose. See Table 2 for the year of implementation for the second dose of varicella; for school year 2007-2008, the second dose of varicella is only required for kindergarten entry.
- o If the 1st dose of varicella vaccine was administered at ≥ 13 years, 2 doses are required, separated by a minimum of 4 to 8 weeks.
- p Information concerning meningococcal disease and the meningococcal vaccine shall be provided to each new student or if the student is under 18 years, to the student's parent or guardian. If the student does not obtain a vaccine, a signature must be obtained from the student or if the student is under 18 years, the student's parent or guardian indicating that the information was reviewed.

