



CLARIFICATION OF IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS 2009-10

Information Sheet for the Immunization Record Keeper

Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

This information sheet was developed to clarify immunization requirements for schools and child care providers by helping the immunization record keeper determine whether or not a child is in compliance with the requirements. →

This sheet is not intended for distribution to parents. ←

Important Information:

- ◆ If a child does not meet the requirements of minimum doses for age or grade, the child must receive the 1st set of required doses within 14 days of notification (exception to this would be a shortage of vaccine) or have a plan to get the shots. Additionally, a plan must be prepared to complete any additional required doses using medically acceptable minimum intervals.
- ◆ Vaccine doses administered 4 days (or less than 4 days) before the minimum interval or age are to be counted as valid.

Requirements for Preschool Children through 4 years of age:


- 1. DTaP** – 1 dose before 4 months of age, 2 doses before 6 months of age, 3 doses before 8 months of age, and 4 doses before 18 months of age.
- 2. Polio** – 1 dose before 4 months of age, 2 doses before 6 months of age, 3 doses before 8 months of age. There must be at least 4 weeks between each dose in order to be valid. Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.
- 3. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)** – 1 dose before 15 months of age. For school certification, the vaccine cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.
- 4. Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)** – The age a child begins the Hib series will determine the number of doses required. 1 dose is required before 4 months of age.
 - ◇ If any dose is given at 15 months or older, the requirement is met.
 - ◇ If a child begins the series at less than 12 months of age, 3 doses are required of which one dose must be administered at or less than 4 days before the 1st birthday or on or after the 1st birthday.
 - ◇ If the 1st dose is given at 12 – 14 months of age, 2 doses are required.
- 5. Hepatitis B** – 1 dose before 4 months of age, 2 doses before 6 months of age, 3 doses before 15 months of age. The second dose should be administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose, and the third dose should 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 at 24 weeks or age (6 months of age) and is not to be administered prior to that age. Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.
- 6. Chickenpox (Varicella)** – 1 dose before 15 months of age. For school certification, the varicella vaccine cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable. Disease history from a health care provider is also acceptable because most children are immune after having had the disease. The individual completing the certificate should record on the certificate the health care provider documentation date or the lab verification date.
- 7. Pneumococcal Disease (Prevnar or PCV7)** – The age a child begins the Prevnar (PCV7) series will determine the number of doses required. 1 dose is required before 4 months of age.
 - * If a child receives a 1st dose at 2-6 months of age, 3 doses are required at 6-14 months of age with a 4th dose between 15-23 months of age (*one dose is to be administered on or after the 1st birthday*)
 - * If a child receives a 1st dose at 7-11 months of age, 2 doses are required at 6-14 months of age with a 3rd dose at 12-15 months of age (*one dose is to be administered on or after the 1st birthday*)
 - * If a child receives a 1st dose at 12-23 months of age, 2 doses are required
 - * After 24 months of age, no new doses are required

Requirements for Children in Kindergarten through 12th Grade:

- 1. DTaP (Kindergarten through 6 years of age) – or Td (7 years of age or older)** – The number of required doses depends upon the age the child received the prior doses. If the 4th dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday, only 4 doses are required. For students 7 yrs of age or older who have not had the required number of pertussis doses, no new or additional DTaP doses are required as DTaP is only licensed through 6 years of age. If a student is 7 years of age or older and has had only 2 doses of DTaP, he/she should receive a dose of Td if it is given at least 6 months after the 2nd dose. If the child is 10 years of age or older, it is preferable for the child to have a dose of Tdap to complete the tetanus/diphtheria requirement if there is a 5 year interval between DTaP and Tdap. If a child is less than 7 years of age and for some reason receives DT instead of DTaP, an exemption must be signed for Pertussis.
- 2. Tdap-** Tdap is required for students entering 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th, 11th, 12th grades. Some students may have had a recent Td and in Colorado, and they will need to have a Tdap administered 2 years after the administration of Td. There is a 5 year minimum interval between DTaP and Tdap.
- 3. Polio** – Polio immunization is required for all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. The number of doses depends upon the age the child received the prior doses. If a child has received 4 doses, he/she meets the number of doses required for school. If the 3rd dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday, only 3 doses are required. (Four valid doses are a complete series regardless of the age of completion). Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.
- 4. MMR** – For school certification, the 1st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. A 2nd MMR is required for all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. The 2nd dose MMR must have been administered at least 28 calendar days after the 1st dose. Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.
- 5. Chickenpox (Varicella)** – 2 doses of vaccine are required for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. 1 dose of vaccine is required for 3rd through 9th grades. For school certification, the varicella vaccine cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable. Disease history from a health care provider is also acceptable because most children are immune after having had the disease. (Public Health Nurses and School Nurses can screen for the disease history). The individual completing the certificate should record on the certificate the health care provider documentation date or the lab verification date.
- 6. Hepatitis B** – 3 doses following minimum intervals. The second dose should be administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose, and the third dose should 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 at 24 weeks or age (6 months of age) and is not to be administered prior to that age. 2 doses are acceptable for children 11 – 15 years old if the hepatitis B vaccine approved specifically for a 2-dose series has been administered using the correct dosage and acceptable interval (4 – 6 months) between doses. In this case, proper documentation (specific name of the vaccine, exact dosage, and dates of administration) is required. Hepatitis B immunization (2 or 3 doses) is required for all students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. Written evidence of a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.

Medical, religious, and personal exemptions continue to apply. Any information distributed by a school or child care center must include a statement that these exemptions are allowed in Colorado. This is required under Colorado law (CRS 25-4-903).

*If you have any questions, please call the Immunization Program
at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*

 303-692-2650 