



Advancing Colorado's health and protecting the places we live, learn, work, and play

Dear parents/guardians of students attending Colorado child cares, preschools, and Head Start programs for the 2023-24 school year:

We know you're thinking of all the things you need to do to make sure your student is ready for child care and school. Getting vaccinated is an important part of their school readiness and keeps children from catching and spreading diseases that can make them sick and potentially disrupt in-person learning. We wish you and your student(s) a healthy school year!

Required and recommended vaccines

- Colorado law requires children who attend a licensed child care, preschool, or Head Start program to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can prevent unless a *Certificate of Exemption* is filed. For more information, visit cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines. Your student must be vaccinated against:
 - Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP).
 - Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib).
 - Hepatitis B (HepB).
 - Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).
 - Pneumococcal disease (PCV13 or PCV15).
 - Polio (IPV).
 - Varicella (chickenpox).
- Colorado follows recommendations set by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. You can view the recommended vaccine schedule for children 0 through 6 years of age at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html.
- CDC also recommends vaccines are recommended for COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), influenza (flu), and rotavirus (RV), but these are not required for child care or school entry in Colorado.

Exclusion from child care and school

- Your student may be excluded from school if your child care or school does not have an up-to-date *Certificate of Immunization*, *Certificate of Exemption*, or an in-process plan on file for your student.
- If someone is ill with a vaccine-preventable disease or there is an outbreak at your student's school and your student has not received the vaccine for that disease, they may be excluded from school activities. That could mean lost learning time for them and lost work and wages for you. For example, if your student has not received a MMR vaccine, they may be excluded from school for 21 days after someone gets sick with measles.

Have questions?

Talk with a health care provider or your local public health agency (LPHA) about which vaccines your student needs or if you have questions. You can find a vaccine provider at cdphe.colorado.gov/immunizations/get-vaccinated. You can read about the safety and importance of vaccines at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/FAQs.html, childvaccineco.org, ImmunizeForGood.com, and cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education. Staying up to date on routine immunizations is important for adults, as well as children. We encourage parents and guardians to find out what vaccines might be due. It's never too late for families to get back on track! Learn more about vaccines for adults at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/index.html.

Paying for vaccinations

If you need help finding free or low-cost vaccines and providers who give them, go to COVax4Kids.org, contact your local public health agency (find LPHA at cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency), or call the Mile High Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777 to ask about Medicaid contact information and health clinics located in your area.

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? It may be available from the [Colorado Immunization Information System \(CIIS\)](#). Visit [COVaxRecords.org](#) for more information, including directions for how to use the CIIS Public Portal to view and print your student’s vaccine record.

Exemptions

- If your student cannot get vaccines because of [medical reasons](#), you must submit a *Certificate of Medical Exemption* to your school, signed by a physician (MD, DO), advanced practice nurse (APN), or delegated physician assistant (PA). You only need to submit this certificate once, unless your student’s school or information changes. You can get the certificate at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](#).
- If you choose not to have your student vaccinated according to Colorado’s school vaccine requirements for reasons that are nonmedical, you must submit a *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* to your school. Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months. These exemptions expire when the next vaccines are due or when the child enrolls in Kindergarten. There are two ways to file a nonmedical exemption.
 1. File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption* WITH the signature from an immunizing provider in Colorado who is a physician (MD or DO), advanced practice nurse (APN), delegated physician’s assistant (PA), registered nurse (RN), or pharmacist licensed in Colorado; OR
 2. File the *Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption*, which you will be able to access upon completion of the state’s online immunization education module.

Downloadable certificates and a link to the online education module are available at [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions](#).

How’s your child care or school doing on vaccinations?

Some parents/guardians/caregivers, especially those with students who have weakened immune systems, may want to know which child cares, preschools, and Head Start programs have the highest immunization rates. Annually, schools must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birth dates) to CDPHE. Schools do not control their specific immunization and exemption rates or establish the Vaccinated Children Standard described in [§25-4-911, CRS](#). Schools must include their MMR immunization and exemption rates from the most recently completed school year in this letter. Schools may choose to also include immunization and exemption rates for other school-required vaccines. Additional immunization and exemption rates can be found at [COVaxRates.org](#).

Child care/Preschool/Head Start name	2021-2022 MMR immunization rate REQUIRED IN LETTER	2021-2022 MMR exemption rate REQUIRED IN LETTER
<i>Schools may also include the rates for the school-required vaccines shown below in this annual letter to parents/guardians</i>		
Vaccinated Children Standard 95% immunization rate for all school-required vaccines	2021-2022 DTaP immunization rate	2021-2022 DTaP exemption rate
	2021-2022 Hib immunization rate	2021-2022 Hib exemption rate
	2021-2022 HepB immunization rate	2021-2022 HepB exemption rate
	2021-2022 IPV immunization rate	2021-2022 IPV exemption rate
	2021-2022 PCV13 immunization rate	2021-2022 PCV13 exemption rate

	2021-2022 Varicella immunization rate	2021-2022 Varicella exemption rate

New!!! Colorado Non Medical Vaccine Exemption Requirements

<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/vaccine-exemptions>

Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year (7/1/2021), the process of submitting a nonmedical exemption will change. There will be **two** ways to submit a nonmedical exemption.

- Submit the Certificate of nonmedical exemption WITH a signature from an immunizing provider in Colorado who is a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathic medicine, advanced practice nurse, delegated physician's assistant, or pharmacist
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UdHc39zCBmuyeBBixShHa15mG-Ea9yFG/view?usp=sharing> (form)

OR

- Submit the Certificate of nonmedical exemption received upon the completion of CDPHE's Online Immunization Education Module.
<https://www.dcpapps.dphe.state.co.us/storyline360/story.html> (link to online education module)

- **Online Immunization Education Module**

- In order to successfully move through this Online Module and obtain the Certificate, you must review the **“Technical Guidance and Troubleshooting Document”**

- We do **not** recommend using a mobile device to complete the course and form.

- The Online Immunization Education Module is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week. It can take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

- At the completion of the module, you will be able to complete an electronic form to obtain a Certificate of nonmedical exemption. You can complete this form for more than one child without having to retake the course.

▪ **IMPORTANT:** Certificates of Nonmedical Exemption expire each year on June 30th. If you submit a Certificate of nonmedical exemption on or before June 30th, it will not be valid for the upcoming school year unless you submit the Certificate during early registration.

- Per Colorado Revised Statutes 25-4-2403, immunizing providers who sign the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption must submit nonmedical exemption data to CIIS
- Parents of students in preschool or child care must submit nonmedical exemptions at 2, 4, 6, 12 and 18 months of age. These exemptions expire when the next vaccines are due or when the child enrolls in kindergarten.
- Parents of students in grades K-12 claiming a nonmedical exemption must submit one annually. **Nonmedical exemptions expire June 30th each year.** If you submit a Certificate of nonmedical exemption on or before June 30th, it will not be valid for the upcoming school year unless you submit the exemption during early registration.



Immunization

Certificate of Medical Exemption

cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization

Colorado law C.R.S. § 25-4-902 requires all students attending any school in the state of Colorado to be vaccinated against certain vaccine-preventable diseases, as established by Colorado Board of Health rule 6 CCR 1009-2, unless an exemption is filed. This law applies to students attending public, private and parochial kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools through 12th grade, colleges or universities, and child care facilities licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services including child care centers, school-age child care centers, preschools, day camps, resident camps, day treatment centers, family child care homes, foster care homes, and Head Start programs.¹ The Certificate of Medical Exemption must be submitted once unless the student's information or school changes. Students with an immunization exemption on file may be kept out of a child care facility or school during a disease outbreak. The length of time will vary depending on the type of the disease and the circumstances of the outbreak.

Complete all required fields as indicated by an asterisk* below and obtain all required signatures. Incomplete forms will not be accepted. Completing all fields allows for us to process this exemption in a more expedited manner and to contact you should questions arise.

Student Information:

*Last Name:	*First Name:	Middle Name:
*Date of Birth:	Email:	*Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> X

Parent/Guardian Completing This Form: Check if an emancipated student or student over 18 years old

If emancipated and under 18 years of age, please submit this exemption form and your emancipation documentation to cdphe.ciis@state.co.us.

*Last Name:	*First Name:	Middle Name:
Relationship to student: <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian		

School/Licensed Child Care Facility Information:

*School Name/Licensed Child Care Facility:		
School District:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Not Applicable	
*Address:		
*City:	*State:	*Zip Code:

Required Vaccines for School Entry

*Check each vaccine declined:	*List medical contraindication(s) [†] for each vaccine declined:
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B (HepB)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP, Tdap)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Varicella (chickenpox)	

[†]Refer to the ACIP *General Best Practices Guidelines for Immunization: Guide to Contraindication and Precautions* for a list of acceptable contraindications and precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>.

Statement of Medical Exemption

The physical condition of the above named student is such that vaccination would endanger their life or health or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions. The information I have provided on this form is complete and accurate.

*REQUIRED Print name, title, signature: _____ *Date: _____

Physician (MD, DO), Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), or Physician Assistant (authorized pursuant to section 12-240-107 (6), C.R.S.)

*REQUIRED: _____ *REQUIRED: Professional License Number: _____
(State/Territory)

DO NOT use this process or form for work-related vaccine exemptions or for vaccines that are not required for school entry in the state of Colorado. This includes vaccines for: COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza (flu), meningococcal disease (MenACWY and MenB), and rotavirus (RV).

¹ Colorado Board of Health Rule 6 CCR 1009-2 : <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccine>

Under Colorado law, you have the option to exclude your child's/your information from the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS). To opt out of CIIS, go to: www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ciis-opt-out-procedures. Please be advised that you will be responsible for maintaining your child's/your immunization records to ensure school compliance.



Immunization

Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption

cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization

Colorado law C.R.S. § 25-4-902 requires all students attending any school in the state of Colorado to be vaccinated against certain vaccine-preventable diseases, as established by Colorado Board of Health Rule 6 CCR 1009-2, unless an exemption is filed. This law applies to students attending public, private and parochial kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools through 12th grade, colleges or universities, and child care facilities licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services including child care centers, school-age child care centers, preschools, day camps, resident camps, day treatment centers, family child care homes, foster care homes, and Head Start programs. "Nonmedical exemption" means an immunization exemption based upon a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations or a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations. Prior to kindergarten, the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption must be filed each time a student is due for vaccines according to the schedule developed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).^{1,2} From kindergarten through 12th grade, the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption must be filed every year during the student's school enrollment/registration process.¹ Students with an immunization exemption on file may be kept out of a child care facility or school during a disease outbreak. The length of time will vary depending on the type of the disease and the circumstances of the outbreak.

Complete all required fields as indicated by an asterisk* below and obtain all required signatures. Incomplete forms will not be accepted. Completing all fields allows for us to process this exemption in a more expedited manner and to contact you should questions arise.

Student Information:

*Last Name:	*First Name:	Middle Name:
*Date of Birth:	Email:	*Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> X

Parent/Guardian Completing This Form: Check if an emancipated student or student over 18 years old

If emancipated and under 18 years of age, please submit this exemption form and your emancipation documentation to cdphe.ciis@state.co.us

*Last Name:	*First Name:	Middle Name:
Relationship to student: <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian		

School/Licensed Child Care Facility Information:

*School Name/Licensed Child Care Facility:		
School District:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if Not Applicable	
*Address:		
*City:	*State:	*Zip Code:

*Required Vaccines for School Entry - Place an "X" next to each vaccine for which you are claiming a nonmedical exemption.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hepatitis B (HepB)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Varicella (chickenpox)

Statement of Exemption

I am the parent/guardian of the above-named student or am the student myself (emancipated or over 18 years of age) and am claiming a nonmedical exemption from the vaccine(s) indicated above. The information I have provided on this form is complete and accurate. I can review evidence-based vaccine information at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education, <https://childvaccineco.org/>, and www.ImmunizeForGood.com/ for additional information on the benefits and risks of vaccines and the diseases they prevent. I can contact the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) at www.covaxrecords.org or my health care provider to locate my child's/my immunization record.³

*REQUIRED: Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian/Student (emancipated or over 18 years old)

REQUIRED Provider Signature Section:

*REQUIRED: Print Name, Title, and Signature: _____ Date: _____ Physician (MD, DO), Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse (RN) or Pharmacist (authorized pursuant to section 12-240-107 (6), C.R.S.)
*REQUIRED: Colorado professional license number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Check if completed during the school's designated early registration period for the upcoming school year.

DO NOT use this process or form for work-related vaccine exemptions or for vaccines that are not required for school entry in the state of Colorado. This includes vaccines for: COVID-19, hepatitis A (HepA), human papillomavirus (HPV), influenza (flu), meningococcal disease (MenACWY and MenB), and rotavirus (RV).

¹ Colorado Board of Health Rule 6 CCR 1009-2: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccine>

² Recommended Immunizations from Birth through 6 Years Old: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf. Based on this schedule, a Certificate of Exemption would be submitted at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months of age.

³ Under Colorado law, you have the option to exclude your child's/your information from CIIS at any time. To opt out of CIIS, go to www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ciis-opt-out-procedures.

⁴Please be advised you will be responsible for maintaining your child's/your immunization records to ensure school compliance.