



## Dear parents/guardians of students in Colorado kindergarten - 12<sup>th</sup> grade schools for the 2020-21 school year:

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

### Required and recommended vaccines

- Colorado law requires students who attend a public, private, or parochial kindergarten - 12th grade school to be vaccinated against many of the diseases vaccines can prevent, unless an exemption is filed. For more information, visit [colorado.gov/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines) (or [cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines)). Your student must be vaccinated against:
  - diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap)
  - polio (IPV)
  - measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
  - hepatitis B (HepB)
  - varicella (chickenpox)
- Colorado follows recommendations set by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Students entering kindergarten must receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR and varicella. Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade must receive one dose of Tdap vaccine, even if they are under 11 years of age. You can view recommended vaccine schedules for children 0 - 6 years of age at [cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf) and preteens/teens 7 - 18 years of age at [cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf).
- Vaccines are recommended for hepatitis A, influenza, meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus, but are not required.

### Exclusion from school

- Your student may be excluded from school if your school does not have an up-to-date vaccine record, exemption, or in-process plan for your student on file.
- If someone gets sick 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 measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, they may be excluded from school for 21 days after someone gets sick with measles.

### Have questions?

- You may want to talk to a healthcare provider licensed to give vaccines or your local public health agency about which vaccines your student needs or if you have questions. You can read about the safety and importance of vaccines at [SpreadTheVaxFacts.com](http://SpreadTheVaxFacts.com), [ImmunizeForGood.com](http://ImmunizeForGood.com), and [colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education) (or [cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education)).

### Paying for vaccinations

- If you need help finding free or low-cost vaccines and providers who give them, go to [COVax4Kids.org](http://COVax4Kids.org), contact your local public health agency, or call the state health department's Family Health Line at 1-303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777. You can find your local public health agency at [colorado.gov/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency](http://colorado.gov/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency) (or [cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency)).

### Vaccination records

- Please take your student's updated vaccine record to 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. Visit [COVaxRecords.org](http://COVaxRecords.org) for more information.

### Exemptions

- If your student cannot get vaccines because of medical reasons, you must submit an official *Immunization Medical Exemption Form* to your school, signed by a health care provider licensed to give vaccines. You only need to submit this form once, unless your student's information or school changes. You can get the form at [colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://colorado.gov/vaccineexemption) (or [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption)).
- If you choose not to have your student vaccinated according to the current recommended schedule because of personal belief or religious reasons, you must submit a non-medical exemption to your school. Non-medical exemptions must be submitted annually at every new school year (July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year). The easiest way to file a personal or religious exemption is by using our online or downloadable non-medical exemption form available at [colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://colorado.gov/vaccineexemption) (or [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption)).

### How's your school doing on vaccinations?

- Some parents, especially those with students who have weakened immune systems, may want to know which schools have the highest percent of vaccinated students. Schools must report immunization and exemption numbers (but not student names or birth dates) to the state health department annually. Immunization and exemption rates can be found at [COVaxRates.org](http://COVaxRates.org).

Please share Page 2 of this letter with your student's health care provider as it provides helpful information about vaccines required for school entry, per Colorado law.



## Estimados padres/tutores de estudiantes de kindergarten a 12° grado de Colorado para el año escolar 2020-21:

Sabemos que están pensando en todas las cosas que tienen que hacer para asegurarse de que su hijo está listo para la escuela. Las vacunas son una parte importante de la preparación escolar y evitan que contraigan y contagien enfermedades. ¡Les deseamos un año escolar saludable a usted y su hijo!

### Vacunas exigidas y recomendadas

- La ley de Colorado exige que los estudiantes que asisten a una escuela pública, privada o religiosa entre Kindergarten y 12.º grado estén vacunados contra muchas de las enfermedades que las vacunas pueden prevenir, a menos que se presente una exoneración. Para más información, visite [colorado.gov/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines](https://colorado.gov/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines) (o [cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/schoolrequiredvaccines)). Su hijo debe estar vacunado contra las siguientes enfermedades:
  - o Difteria, tétanos y tos ferina (DTaP, DTP, Tdap)
  - o Polio (IPV)
  - o Sarampión, paperas, rubeola (MMR)
  - o Hepatitis B (HepB)
  - o Varicela
- Colorado sigue las recomendaciones establecidas por el Comité Asesor de Prácticas de Vacunación. Los estudiantes que ingresan en kindergarten deben recibir las dosis finales de DTaP, IPV, MMR y varicela. Los estudiantes que ingresan en 6º grado deben recibir una dosis de la vacuna Tdap, incluso si tienen menos de 11 años. Puede ver los calendarios de vacunación recomendados para niños de 0 a 6 años en [cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf) y preadolescentes y adolescentes de 7 a 18 años en [cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf](https://cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/teen/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf).
- Se recomiendan las vacunas contra la hepatitis A, la influenza, la enfermedad por meningococo y el virus del papiloma humano, pero no son obligatorias.

### Exclusión de la escuela

- Su hijo puede ser excluido de la escuela si su escuela no tiene un registro de vacunación actualizado, una exención o un plan en proceso para su hijo registrado.
- Si alguien contrae una enfermedad que puede prevenirse con una vacuna o hay un brote en la escuela de su hijo y su hijo no fue vacunado contra esa enfermedad, es posible que sea excluido de las actividades escolares. Esto significa que el niño perdería tiempo de aprendizaje y ustedes perderían trabajo y sueldos. Por ejemplo, si su hijo no ha recibido la vacuna contra sarampión, paperas y rubeola (MMR), puede que no pueda asistir a la escuela por 21 días después de que alguien contraiga sarampión.

### ¿Tiene alguna pregunta?

- Es recomendable que consulte a un proveedor de atención médica autorizado para administrar vacunas o a su agencia de salud pública local sobre las vacunas que necesita su hijo o si tiene alguna pregunta. Puede leer sobre la seguridad y la importancia de las vacunas en [SpreadTheVaxFacts.com](https://spreadthevaxfacts.com), [ImmunizeForGood.com](https://immunizeforgood.com), y [colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education](https://colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education) (o [cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/immunization-education)).

### Cómo pagar por las vacunas

- Si necesita ayuda para encontrar proveedores de atención médica o acceder a vacunas gratuitas o a precios reducidos, visite [COVax4Kids.org](https://covax4kids.org), comuníquese con la agencia local de salud pública o llame a la línea de salud familiar del Departamento de Salud del estado al 1-303-692-2229 o 1-800-688-7777. Puede encontrar su agencia local de salud pública en [colorado.gov/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency](https://colorado.gov/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency) (o [cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/find-your-local-public-health-agency)).

### Registros de vacunación

- Lleve el registro de vacunas actualizado de su hijo a la escuela cada vez que su hijo reciba una vacuna.
- ¿Necesita encontrar el registro de vacunas de su hijo? Es posible que esté disponible a través del Sistema de Información sobre Vacunación de Colorado. Visite [COVaxRecords.org](https://covaxrecords.org) para más información.

### Exoneraciones

- Si su hijo no puede recibir vacunas por motivos médicos, debe presentar en la escuela un *Formulario de exoneración médica para vacunas oficial*, firmado por un proveedor de atención médica autorizado para administrar vacunas. Solo debe presentar este formulario una vez, a menos que cambie la información o la escuela de su hijo. Puede obtener el formulario en [colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](https://colorado.gov/vaccineexemption) (o [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption)).
- Si no desea que se vacune a su hijo según el calendario actual recomendado por creencias personales o razones religiosas, debe presentar una exoneración no médica ante la escuela. Las exoneraciones no médicas deben presentarse anualmente con cada nuevo año escolar (del 1º de julio al 30 de junio del año siguiente). La manera más fácil de presentar una exoneración personal o religiosa es usar nuestro formulario en línea o descargable de exoneración no médica disponible en [colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](https://colorado.gov/vaccineexemption) (o [cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption)).

### ¿Cómo le va a su escuela con respecto a las vacunaciones?

- Para algunos padres, especialmente aquellos cuyos hijos tienen el sistema inmunitario debilitado, es recomendable que consulten qué escuelas tienen el mayor porcentaje de niños vacunados. Las escuelas deben informar las cifras de estudiantes vacunados y exentos (aunque no los nombres y fechas de nacimiento de los estudiantes) al departamento de salud del estado cada año. Las tasas de vacunados y exenciones pueden encontrarse en [COVaxRates.org](https://covaxrates.org).

Comparta la página 2 de esta carta con el proveedor de atención médica de su hijo, ya que contiene información útil sobre las vacunas obligatorias para el ingreso escolar, en virtud de las leyes de Colorado.



# Immunization Medical Exemption Form

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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, Head Start programs. Students with a recorded immunization exemption 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 disease and the circumstances of the outbreak.

Please complete all required fields below. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

## Student Information:

Last Name:		First Name:	(optional) Middle Name:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male		Date of Birth:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip Code:
Email Address:		County:	
Phone Number:		<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell	

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

Last Name:		First Name:	(optional) Middle Name:
Relationship to student: <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip Code:
Email Address:		County:	
Phone Number:		<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell	

## 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:
Phone Number:		Grade of Student:	

Required Vaccines for Entering School: (Check each vaccine declined)	List medical contraindication(s) for each vaccine declined
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B	
<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 (PCV13)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Varicella (chickenpox)	

The physical condition of the above named student is such that vaccination would endanger his/her life or health or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician (MD, DO), Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), or delegated Physician Assistant (PA)

Under Colorado law, you have the option to exclude your child's/your information from CIIS. To opt out of CIIS, go to: [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ciis-opt-out-procedures](http://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

## Non-Medical Exemption Form (Religious and Personal Belief)

Vaccines are one of the greatest public health achievements of the past century and save an estimated 3 million children's lives every year. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment strongly supports vaccination as one of the easiest and most effective tools in preventing diseases that can cause serious illness and even death. For nearly all children, the benefits of preventing disease with a vaccine far outweigh the risks. Declining to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) immunization schedule for number, space and timing of doses, may endanger an unvaccinated child's health and others who come into contact with him/her. Some vaccine-preventable diseases are common in other countries and unvaccinated children could easily get one of these diseases while traveling or from a traveler.

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Prior to kindergarten, a non-medical exemption must be filed each time a student is due for vaccines according to the schedule developed by the ACIP.<sup>1,2</sup> From kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, a non-medical exemption must be filed every year during the student's school enrollment/registration process.<sup>1</sup> Students with a recorded immunization exemption 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.

Please complete all required fields below; incomplete forms will not be accepted. *All fields are required unless noted optional.*

Type of Non-Medical Exemption Claimed:       Personal Belief                       Religious

### Student Information:

Last Name:	First Name:	(optional) Middle Name:
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	Date of Birth:	
Street #:	Street Name:	Street Type (e.g. Ave.):
Unit #:	P.O. Box:	
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Email Address:	County:	
Phone Number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell	

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

Last Name:	First Name:	(optional) Middle Name:
Relationship to student: <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian		
Street #:	Street Name:	Street Type (e.g. Ave.):
Unit #:	P.O. Box:	
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Email Address:	County:	
Phone Number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Cell	

### 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:
Phone Number:	Grade of Student:	

<sup>1</sup> Colorado Board of Health rule 6 CCR 1009-2: <https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=7698&fileName=6%20CCR%201009-2>.

<sup>2</sup> 2018 Recommended Immunizations from Birth through 6 Years Old: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/downloads/parent-ver-sch-0-6yrs.pdf). Based on this schedule, a non-medical exemption would be submitted at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12 months and 18 months of age.

## Vaccine Preventable Disease Information

The information provided below is to ensure parents/guardians/students are informed about the risks of not vaccinating.

**Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP, Tdap)** - Unvaccinated children may be at increased risk of developing diphtheria, tetanus and/or pertussis if exposed to these diseases. Serious symptoms and effects of diphtheria include heart failure, paralysis, breathing problems, coma, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of tetanus include “locking” of the jaw, difficulty swallowing and breathing, seizures, painful tightening of muscles in the head and neck, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of pertussis (whooping cough) include severe coughing fits that can cause vomiting and exhaustion, pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/dtap.pdf> and <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/tdap.pdf>

**Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)** - Unvaccinated children may be at increased risk of developing invasive Hib disease if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects include bacterial meningitis, pneumonia, severe swelling in the throat, brain damage, deafness, infections of the blood, joints, bones, and covering of the heart, and death. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hib.pdf>

**Hepatitis B** - Unvaccinated children may be at increased risk of developing hepatitis B if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects include jaundice, life-long liver problems such as liver damage, scarring, liver cancer, and death. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hep-b.pdf>

**Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)** - Unvaccinated children may be at increased risk of developing polio if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects include paralysis of muscles that control breathing, meningitis, permanent disability, and death. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/ipv.pdf>

**Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)** - Unvaccinated children may be at increased risk of developing measles, mumps, and/or rubella if exposed to these diseases. Serious symptoms and effects of measles include pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of mumps include meningitis, painful swelling of the testicles or ovaries, sterility, deafness, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of rubella include rash, arthritis, and muscle or joint pain. If a pregnant woman gets rubella, she could have a miscarriage or her baby could be born with serious birth defects such as deafness, heart problems, and mental retardation. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/mmr.pdf>

**Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13)** - Unvaccinated children may be at increased risk of developing pneumococcal disease if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects include pneumonia, lung infections, blood infections, meningitis and death. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/pcv13.pdf>.

**Varicella (chickenpox)** - Unvaccinated children may be at increased risk of developing varicella if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects include severe skin infections, pneumonia, brain damage, and death. For more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/varicella.pdf>

### Required Vaccines for School Entry - Place an “X” next to each vaccine you are declining.

	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)		Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)
	Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)		Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)		Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13)
	Hepatitis B		Varicella (chickenpox)

### Statement of Exemption

I am the parent/guardian of the above-named student or am the student himself/herself (emancipated or over 18 years of age) and am declining the vaccine(s) indicated above due to a religious or personal belief that is opposed to vaccines. The information I have provided on this form is complete and accurate.

- I may change my mind at any time and accept vaccination(s) for my child/myself in the future.
- I can review evidence-based vaccine information at [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/immunization-education), or [www.ImmunizeforGood.com](http://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.ColoradollS.com](http://www.ColoradollS.com) or my health care provider to locate my child’s/my immunization record.<sup>3</sup>

***I acknowledge that I have read this document in its entirety.***

Parent/Guardian/Student (emancipated or over 18 yrs old) signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Optional)** I authorize my/my student’s school to share my/my student’s immunization records with state/local public health agencies and the Colorado Immunization Information System, the state’s secure, confidential immunization registry.

Parent/Guardian/Student (emancipated or over 18 yrs old) signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>3</sup>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](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ciis-opt-out-procedures). Please be advised you will be responsible for maintaining your child’s/your immunization records to ensure school compliance.