



Dear parents/guardians of students in Colorado kindergarten – 12th grade schools for the 2021-22 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!

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 health care provider licensed to give vaccines. You only need to submit this certificate once, unless your student's information or school changes. You can get the form at cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions.
- 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 Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption to your school. Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted annually at every new school year (July 1 through June 30th of the following year). There are two ways to file a nonmedical exemption.
 - **File the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption WITH a signature from an immunizing provider, OR**
 - **File the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption received upon the completion of our online education module.** Downloadable certificates and the online education module are available at cdphe.colorado.gov/vaccine-exemptions.

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 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, DTP, Tdap)
 - Hepatitis B (HepB)
 - Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)
 - Polio (IPV)
 - 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 6th grade must receive one dose of Tdap vaccine, even if they are under 11 years of age. You can view recommended vaccine schedules at cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/parents-adults/resources-parents.html.
- Vaccines are recommended for hepatitis A, influenza, meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus, but are not required.