

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division**

**THE INFANT IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND IMMUNIZATION OF STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL**

**6 CCR 1009-2**

*[Editor's Notes follow the text of the rules at the end of this CCR Document.]*

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**Adopted by the Board of Health on August 19, 2015**

**I. Definitions**

- A. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) - a group of medical and public health experts that develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States. ACIP was established under Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. § 217a).
- B. Child - any student less than 18 years of age.
- C. College or university student - any student who is enrolled for one or more classes at a college or university and who is physically present at the institution. This includes students who are auditing classes but does not include persons taking classes ONLINE OR by correspondence only.
- D. Dose - a measured quantity of an immunizing agent; quantity and frequency of administration determined by recognized health authorities and the manufacturer of each agent.
- E. Emancipated student - any student who has reached age 18; a lawfully married child of any age; a child 15 years of age or older who is managing his/her own financial affairs and who is living separate and apart from his/her parent.
- F. Immunization tracking system - a comprehensive immunization tracking system established by the Department of Public Health and Environment pursuant to Section 25-4-2403(2), C.R.S.
- G. Indigent child - any child whose parent cannot afford to have the child immunized or if emancipated, who cannot himself/herself afford immunization and who has not been exempted.
- H. Infant - any child up to twenty-four months of age or any child eligible for vaccination and enrolled under the Colorado Medical Assistance Act, Articles 4, 5, and 6 of Title 25.5, C.R.S.

- I. In-process student - a student may be considered in-process if:
1. Within fourteen days after receiving direct personal notification that the certificate of immunization is not up-to-date according to the requirements of the state board of health, the parent or emancipated student submits documentation that the next required immunization has been given and a signed written plan for obtaining the remaining required immunizations. The scheduling of immunizations in the written plan shall follow medically recommended minimum intervals consistent with the ACIP. If the student does not fulfill the plan, the student shall be suspended or expelled from school for non-compliance as noted in Section 25-4-907, C.R.S. If the next dose is not medically indicated within fourteen days, then the medically approved minimum intervals would apply.
  2. With regard to college or university students as defined in Section I (C), the student must present to the appropriate official of the school either (I) a signed written authorization requesting local health officials to administer required immunizations or (II) a plan for receipt of the required immunization or the next required immunization in a series within either 30 days or the medically approved minimum interval. If this does not occur, the college or university student will not be allowed to enroll, remain enrolled, or audit for the current term or session. Such written authorizations and plans must be signed by one parent or guardian or the emancipated student or the student eighteen years of age or older.
- J. Parent - the person or persons with parental or decision-making responsibilities for a child.
- K. Practitioner - a duly licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, or other person who is permitted and otherwise qualified to administer vaccines under the laws of this state.
- L. School - all child care facilities licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services including: child care centers, school-age child care center, preschools, day camps, resident camps, day treatment centers, family child care homes, foster care homes, and head start programs; public, private, or parochial kindergarten, elementary or secondary schools through grade twelve, or a college or university. Schools do not include a public services short-term child care facility as defined in Section 26-6-102 (6.7), C.R.S., a guest child care facility as defined in Section 26-6-102 (5), C.R.S., a ski school as defined in Section 26-6-103.5 (6), C.R.S., or college or university classes which are: offered off-campus; offered to nontraditional adult students as defined by the governing board of the institution; offered at colleges or universities which do not have residence hall facilities, or; online only.
- M. School health authority - an individual working for or on behalf of the child care facility or school who is knowledgeable about childcare/school immunizations.
- N. School official - the school's chief executive officer or any person designated by him/her as his/her representative.
- O. Student - any person enrolled in a Colorado school as defined in I (L), except college and university students as defined in section I(C).

## **II. Exemptions from Immunization**

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to have his or her student immunized unless the student is exempted. A student may be exempted from receiving the required immunizations in the following manner:

- A. Medical exemption - By submitting a medical exemption form with the statement of medical exemption signed by an advanced practice nurse or physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in any state or territory of the United States indicating that the physical condition of the student is such that immunizations would endanger his/her life or health or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions. This form is to be submitted once, and must be maintained on file at each new school the student attends.
- B. Religious exemption - By submitting a nonmedical exemption form signed by the parent(s) or the emancipated student indicating that the parent(s) or emancipated student is an adherent to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations.

Beginning July 1, 2016,

- 1. Prior to kindergarten entry, a nonmedical exemption form must be submitted at each interval in the 2015 ACIP Birth-18 years immunization schedule at which immunizations are due. The 2015 ACIP immunization schedule is incorporated in Section III (B). This documentation is required only for those vaccines required to prevent the diseases listed in Section III (A).
  - 2. From kindergarten through twelfth grade, a nonmedical exemption form must be submitted once per school year.
- C. Personal belief exemption - By submitting a nonmedical exemption form signed by the parent(s) or the emancipated student indicating that the parent(s) or emancipated student has a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations.

Beginning July 1, 2016,

- 1. Prior to kindergarten entry, a nonmedical exemption form must be submitted at each interval in the 2015 ACIP Birth-18 years immunization schedule at which immunizations are due. The 2015 ACIP immunization schedule is incorporated in Section III (B). This documentation is required only for those vaccines required to prevent the diseases listed in Section III (A).
  - 2. From kindergarten through twelfth grade, a nonmedical exemption form must be submitted once per school year.
- D. In the event of an outbreak of disease against which immunization is required, no exemption or exception from immunization shall be recognized and exempted persons may be subject to exclusion from school and quarantine.
  - E. All information distributed to the parent(s) by school districts regarding immunization shall inform them of their rights under Section II (A-D).
  - F. If the school chooses to use the immunization tracking system to monitor compliance with the school law, and the parent(s) or student submits an exemption, the school must submit the exemption information to the immunization tracking system.

### **III. Minimum Immunization Requirements**

- A. To attend school, a student must have an age appropriate Certificate of Immunization. Meeting the initial immunization requirements does not exempt a student from meeting subsequent age requirements. This certificate must demonstrate immunization against the following diseases:
  - 1. Hepatitis B

2. Pertussis
  3. Tetanus
  4. Diphtheria
  5. Haemophilus Influenza Type B (HIB)
  6. Pneumococcal disease
  7. Polio
  8. Measles
  9. Mumps
  10. Rubella
  11. Varicella
- B. The minimum number of doses required by age of the student is set forth in the 2015 Birth – 18 Years Recommended Immunization Schedule or the 2015 Catch-Up Immunization Schedule of the (ACIP).
1. The 2015 ACIP Birth-18 Years Recommended Immunization Schedule (Schedule) is incorporated by reference for only those vaccines required to prevent the diseases listed in Section III, Provision A. Other immunizations included in the ACIP recommendations are not required. This schedule is posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>, or on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website at [[www.coloradoimmunizations.com](http://www.coloradoimmunizations.com)], and, is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado 80246. Copies of the recommended schedules are available from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for a reasonable charge that comports with the Department's record request practices. This rule does not include any later amendments or editions of the ACIP Schedule.
  2. In addition, the 2015 ACIP Catch-Up Immunization Schedule is incorporated by reference for those children not fully immunized and only for those vaccines required to prevent the diseases listed in Section III, Provision A. Other immunizations included in the ACIP recommendations are not required. This recommended schedule is posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>, or on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website at [[www.coloradoimmunizations.com](http://www.coloradoimmunizations.com)], and, is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado 80246. Copies of the recommended schedules are available from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for a reasonable charge that comports with the department's record request practices. This rule does not include any later amendments or editions of the ACIP Catch-Up Schedule.

#### **IV. Examination and audit of official school immunization records**

The Department of Public Health and Environment's representative shall have the right to audit and verify records to determine compliance with the law. Discrepancies found through audits shall be corrected by school officials, and any student not in full compliance shall be suspended or expelled from school according to the following rules:

- A. If the parent(s) or emancipated student was informed of the deficiencies in the student's official school immunization records pursuant to Section I, Provision I.1 of the rules, the student shall be suspended or expelled pursuant to Section 25-4-907, C.R.S.

- B. If the parent(s) or emancipated student was not informed by a direct personal notification of the immunizations required and alternatives for compliance with the law, the school shall notify the parent(s) or emancipated student within 7 calendar days of the finding and the student shall: a) provide proof of immunization within fourteen days, b) continue as an in-process student, c) verify that the student is exempt, or d) the student shall be suspended or expelled pursuant to Section 25-4-907, C.R.S.

**V. Denial of attendance**

- A. A student who is: not in-process, not appropriately vaccinated for his/her age, or not exempt shall be denied attendance in accordance with the law.
- B. If the student is attending a school which is not subject to the School Attendance Law, Section 22-33-101 et seq., C.R.S., the school officials shall take appropriate action to deny attendance to the student in accordance with that school's procedures or contract with the student. No indigent child shall be excluded, suspended, or expelled from school unless the immunizations have been available and readily accessible to the indigent child at public expense.

**VI. Official school immunization records**

- A. Official school immunization records shall include:
1. An official Certificate of Immunization or an Alternate Certificate of Immunization approved by the Department of Public Health and Environment shall include one of the following forms of documentation with the dates and types of immunizations administered to a student:
    - a. A paper or electronic document that includes information transferred from the records of a licensed physician, registered nurse, or public health official, or
    - b. An electronic file or hard copy of an electronic file provided to the school directly from the immunization tracking system established pursuant to Section 25-4-2403, C.R.S., or from a software program approved by the Department of Public Health and Environment, or
  2. An official medical exemption form with the date and vaccines exempted from, or
  3. An official nonmedical exemption form with the date, type of exemption taken and the vaccines exempted from.
- B. Any immunization record (original or copy) provided by a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in any state or territory of the United States, registered nurse, or public health official may be accepted by the school official as proof of immunization. The information is to be verified by the school official and transferred to an official Certificate of Immunization.
- C. Schools shall have on file an official school immunization record for every student enrolled. The official school immunization record will be kept apart from other school records. When a student withdraws, transfers, or is promoted to a new school, the school official shall return the Certificate of Immunization to the parent(s) or emancipated student upon request or transfer it with the student's school records to the new school. Upon a college or university student's request, the Certificate of Immunization shall be forwarded as specified by the student.

**VII. Reporting of Statistical Information**

- A. On December 1, 2016, and each year thereafter, all schools shall send aggregate immunization and exemption data by antigen to the Department of Public Health and Environment. This data shall include:
1. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students enrolled in the school;
  2. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students who are up-to-date with immunizations as required in Section III;
  3. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students who have a medical exemption for all immunizations as required in Section III;
  4. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students who have a medical exemption for one or more but not all immunizations as required in Section III;
  5. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students who have a religious exemption for all immunizations as required in Section III;
  6. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students who have a religious exemption for one or more but not all immunizations as required in Section III;
  7. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students who have a personal belief exemption for all immunizations as required in Section III;
  8. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students who have a personal belief exemption for one or more but not all immunizations as required in Section III;
  9. Total number of in-process students and total number of in-process kindergarten students;
  10. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students not up-to-date for immunizations as required in part III, with no exemption on file, and not in-process; and
  11. Total number of students and total number of kindergarten students with no immunization records.

**VIII. Notification of noncompliance**

- A. Section 25-4-907, C.R.S. requires that if a student is suspended or expelled from school for failure to comply with the immunization law, the school official shall notify the state or local department of health or public health nurse who shall then contact the parent(s) or emancipated student in an effort to secure compliance so that the student may be re-enrolled in school.
- B. Upon receipt of an immunization referral from the school, the public health department or public health nurse shall contact the parent(s) of the referred student or the emancipated student himself/herself to offer immunization and to secure compliance with the school immunization law in order that the student may provide a completed Certificate of Immunization to the school and in the case of an expelled or suspended student, be re-enrolled in school.

**IX. Requirements for college and university students, colleges and universities.**

The provisions below apply only to colleges or universities, or students enrolled in a college or university.

**A. Exemptions from immunization**

A college or university student may be exempted from receiving required immunizations in the following manner:

1. Medical exemption - by submitting a medical exemption form with the statement of medical exemption signed by an advanced practice nurse or physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in any state or territory of the united states indicating that the physical condition of the college or university student is such that immunizations would endanger his/her life or health or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions. This form is to be submitted once, and must be maintained on file at each new school the college or university student attends.
2. Religious exemption - by submitting a nonmedical exemption form signed by the college or university student 18 years of age or older, the parent if the college or university student is under 18 years of age, or the emancipated college or university student indicating that the college or university student, parent or emancipated college or university student is adherent to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations. As of July 1, 2016, beginning with college or university entry, a nonmedical exemption form must be submitted at enrollment.
3. Personal belief exemption - by submitting a nonmedical exemption form signed by the college or university student 18 years of age or older, the parent if the college or university student is under 18 years of age, or the emancipated college or university student indicating that the college or university student, parent or emancipated college or university student has a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations. As of July 1, 2016, beginning with college or university entry, a nonmedical exemption form must be submitted at enrollment.
4. In the event of an outbreak of disease against which immunization is required, no exemption or exception from immunization shall be recognized and exempted persons may be subject to exclusion from school and quarantine.

**B. Minimum immunization requirements**

1. Two valid doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine are required for all college or university students, unless the college or university student was born before 1957, or the college or university student can provide laboratory confirmation of disease as a criterion for acceptable evidence of immunity for Measles, Rubella, and Mumps.

2. Pursuant to Section 25-4-901, C.R.S. et. seq., and Section 23-5-128 (3), C.R.S., each college and university shall provide information concerning Meningococcal disease and Meningococcal vaccine to each new college or university student residing in student housing, or if the college or university student is under 18 years, to the college or university student's parent or guardian. College and university students residing in student housing who have not received a Meningococcal vaccine within the last five years shall review the information concerning Meningococcal disease and Meningococcal vaccine. If the college or university student does not obtain a vaccine, a signature must be obtained from the college or university student or if the college or university student is under 18 years, the college or university student's parent or guardian indicating that the information was reviewed and the college or university student or college or university student's parent or guardian has declined the vaccine.

C. Examination and audit of official school immunization records

The Department of Public Health and Environment's representative shall have the right to audit and verify records to determine compliance with the law. Discrepancies found through audits shall be corrected by school officials, and any college or university student not in full compliance shall be denied attendance from school according to the rules in Section IX (D).

D. Denial of attendance

1. A college or university student who is: not in-process, not appropriately vaccinated for his/her age, or not exempt shall be denied attendance in accordance with the law.
2. A school official shall deny attendance from school, pursuant to the provisions established by the college or university, any college or university student not in-process, not appropriately immunized for his/her age, or not exempt per Section 25-4-903, C.R.S. no college or university student shall be denied attendance for failure to comply unless there has been a direct personal notification of noncompliance by the appropriate school authority to the college or university student's parent or guardian, the emancipated college or university student or the college or university student 18 years of age or older.

E. Official school immunization records

1. Official school immunization records shall include one of the following:
  - A. An official certificate of immunization or an alternate certificate of immunization approved by the Department of Public Health and Environment, which shall include one of the following forms of documentation with the dates and types of immunizations administered to a college or university student:
    1. A paper or electronic document that includes information transferred from the records of a licensed physician, registered nurse, or public health official, or
    2. An electronic file or hard copy of an electronic file provided to the school directly from the immunization tracking system established pursuant to Section 25-4-2403 C.R.S. or from a software program approved by the department of public health and environment, or
  - B. An official medical exemption form with the date and vaccines exempted from, or
  - C. An official nonmedical exemption form with the date, type of exemption taken and the vaccines exempted from.

2. Any immunization record (original or copy) provided by a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in any state or territory of the united states, registered nurse, or public health official may be accepted by the school official as proof of immunization.
  3. Schools shall have on file an official school immunization record for every college or university student enrolled.
- F. Reporting of statistical information - on December 1 of each year, all colleges and universities shall send aggregate immunization and exemption data by antigen to the Department of Public Health and Environment. This data shall include:
1. Total number of college or university students enrolled in the school;
  2. Total number of college or university students who are up-to-date with immunizations as required in this Section (IX);
  3. Total number of college or university students who have a medical exemption for the MMR vaccine;
  4. Total number of college or university students who have a religious exemption for the MMR vaccine;
  5. Total number of college or university students who have a personal belief exemption for the MMR vaccine;
  6. Total number of in-process college or university students;
  7. Total number of college or university students who have a signed waiver for the Meningococcal vaccine;
  8. Total number of college or university students not up-to-date for the MMR vaccine, with no exemption on file, no Meningococcal vaccine waiver on file, and not in-process; and
  9. Total number of college or university students with no immunization records.
- X. Contract Requirements for Providers, Hospitals, and Health Care Clinics to be an Agent of the Department of Public Health and Environment for the Purposes of the Immunization Program**
- A. To be an agent of the Department of Public Health and Environment for the purposes of administering immunizations to infants, children, and students, a provider, hospital, or health care clinic must agree to provide each patient receiving a vaccine, or the parent or legal guardian if such patient is an unemancipated minor, a copy of the currently approved vaccine information statement.
  - B. The Department of Public Health and Environment shall make such requirements as are necessary to assure the confidentiality and security of information in an immunization tracking system operated pursuant to Section 25-4-1705(5)(e)(I)(H), C.R.S and Section 25-4-1705(7), C.R.S.

**XI. Fee for the Administration, Reporting, and Tracking of Vaccine**

This rule applies to immunizations purchased by CDPHE that are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provided to Colorado practitioners.

- A. Practitioners may charge up to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services maximum regional fee for the administration of vaccine. These fees apply to all vaccines purchased by CDPHE, including but not limited to the Infant Immunization Program, and Immunization of Children Attending School.
- B. A vaccine recipient may not be denied vaccine provided by CDPHE because of inability to pay the administration fee.
- C. If a practitioner's vaccine administration costs are less than the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services maximum regional fee for the administration of vaccine, then they may only charge up to that lesser amount.

**XII. On-line educational module**

As necessary to comply with section 25-4-903 (2.5), C.R.S., the Department of Public Health and Environment shall provide immunization information to the public. The immunization information and contents of this module shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Exemption rates in Colorado that are available to the public through the Department,
- B. Evidence-based research,
- C. Resources and information from credible scientific and public health organizations, and
- D. Peer-reviewed studies.

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**Editor's Notes**

**History**

Section I, Table 1, Table 2 eff. 03/01/2008.

Section I, Table 1 eff. 03/02/2009.

Sections I-XI, Table 1 eff. 12/30/2010.

Rules I.L., II. A., Table 1 eff. 07/01/2012.

Section XI emer. rule eff. 01/16/2013.

Section XI, Table 1, Table 2 eff. 04/14/2013.

Sections I-IV, VI, IX, XI eff. 10/15/2014. Table 1, Table 2 repealed eff. 10/15/2014.

Sections I-VII, XII eff. 07/01/2015.

Sections I-IX eff. 10/15/2015. Sections III.C-D repealed eff. 10/15/2015.