



# School (K-12) immunization table

## Vaccines required for school entry, 2026-2027

### Background:

1. This table may be used as a guide to evaluate the number of valid doses a child or adolescent must receive to comply with [state immunization requirements](#).
2. Immunization requirements must be enforced. Students who do not meet the requirements must be denied attendance according to Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#).
3. Before a student's first day of school, Colorado law requires parents or guardians to provide each school their student attends with at least one of the following:
  - A. **An immunization record** showing that the child has received school-required vaccines and is up to date according to their age.
    - Schools and child cares are required to have a completed [Official Colorado Certificate of Immunization](#) in the student's electronic or hard copy file. An immunization record also includes documentation of positive titers as an acceptable alternative for certain vaccine components. Use CDPHE's [titer interpretation guidance resource](#) to determine which titers are an acceptable alternative to documentation of one or more school-required vaccines.
  - B. **An in-process plan** signed by the child's health care provider showing that the student is in the process of catching up on missing vaccine(s) following the minimum intervals between doses described in the [catch-up schedule \(Table 2\)](#).
    - Students who fall out of compliance during the school year may still attend for a limited time. Within seven days of the finding of immunization noncompliance, the school must directly notify the parent/guardian, who then has 30 days to provide the school with updated immunization documentation. This documentation must be: (1) an immunization record showing the student received the missing dose(s) of school-required vaccine(s), and if applicable, an in-process plan ([sample](#)) showing the student will be obtaining the remaining school-required vaccines following the minimum intervals between doses described in the [catch-up schedule \(Table 2\)](#), or (2) a Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption. If, after 30 days, no immunization documentation is received, the school must exclude the student per Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#).
  - C. **A Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption** for any missing doses of school-required vaccine(s).
    - Parents/guardians/emancipated students must follow [Colorado's process](#) to obtain a certificate of exemption. Certificates of exemption expire and need to be renewed at specified intervals. Visit the [exemptions to school-required vaccines](#) webpage for more information, or the [school \(K-12\) professionals](#) webpage for guides to verify whether an exemption is complete.

To meet the requirements, students may have one or a combination of these documents for school-required vaccines. Per Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#), students not in compliance with the immunization requirements may not start school or child care.

4. Vaccines **required** for school (K-12) include hepatitis B (HepB), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP), polio (IPV), measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), varicella (chickenpox), and tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap prior to seventh grade entry; see the [Tdap parent letter](#) on the [school \(K-12\) professionals](#) webpage).
5. Schools and child cares can enroll in the [Colorado Immunization Information System \(CIIS\)](#), which allows them to access and review immunization records. Email [cdphe\\_ciis\\_schools@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_ciis_schools@state.co.us) for more information.

### How to use the school (K-12) immunization table:

1. Review the student's immunization record alongside this table to determine if they have the required number of valid doses.
  - A. The Colorado Board of Health follows the [immunization schedule](#) developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) with the following exceptions:
    - Students between the ages of 4 and 6 years are required to receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR, and varicella vaccines prior to kindergarten entry.
    - Students are required to receive Tdap vaccine prior to seventh grade entry.
    - Immunization records for high school students age 19 through 21 should be assessed using Appendix A of Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#) (pgs. 24-26).

Vaccines must be given no earlier than the [minimum intervals and ages](#) to be valid. A four-day grace period applies in most situations, though it should **not** be applied to the 28-day interval between two different live virus vaccines (such as MMR or varicella).

Vaccine	Number of doses (routine)	Routine (on time) vaccination and catch-up guidance
<b>Hepatitis B (HepB)</b>	3	<p><b>Routine:</b> Three-dose series at age 0 (birth), 1-2 months, and 6-18 months. The minimum age for the final dose is 24 weeks of age. If Dose 3 is given prior to 24 weeks, a fourth dose is required. Four doses of hepatitis B vaccine are permitted when a combination vaccine is used.</p> <p><b>Catch-up:</b> Three-dose series at 0, 1-2 months, 6 months (minimum intervals of four weeks between Dose 1 and Dose 2, eight weeks between Dose 2 and Dose 3, and 16 weeks between Dose 1 and Dose 3). There is a two-dose option (adult Recombivax HB, minimum interval of four months between doses) for adolescents aged 11-15, and a two-dose option for adults aged 18 and older (Heplisav-B, minimum interval of four weeks between doses).</p>
<b>Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)</b> DTaP products are licensed through 6 years of age.	5	<p><b>Routine:</b> five-dose series at 2, 4, 6, 15-18 months, and 4-6 years</p> <p><b>Catch-up:</b> Dose 5 is not required if Dose 4 was administered on or after the 4th birthday <b>and</b> at least 6 months after Dose 3. Use the <a href="#">DTaP catch-up guidance job aid</a> for guidance for children 4 months through 6 years.</p>
<b>Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)</b> For routine use in adolescents and adults age 11 and older. May be used for students aged 7-10 years for catch up.	1	<p><b>Routine:</b> For students who are fully vaccinated with the childhood series of DTaP (see above), one dose of Tdap is required prior to seventh grade entry. Refer to the <a href="#">Tdap letter</a> on the <a href="#">school (K-12) professionals</a> webpage for more information.</p> <p><b>Catch-up:</b> For children <b>7-9 years</b> who are <b>not fully</b> vaccinated with the childhood series of DTaP, determine the number of additional doses of Tdap/Td required by using the <a href="#">Tdap catch-up guidance job aid</a>.</p> <p>For children and adolescents <b>10-18 years</b> who are <b>not fully</b> vaccinated with the childhood series of DTaP, determine the number of additional Tdap/Td doses required by using the <a href="#">Tdap catch-up guidance job aid</a>.</p>
<b>Polio (IPV)</b> Doses of oral polio virus (OPV) administered on or after April 1, 2016, should not be counted as valid.*	4	<p><b>Routine:</b> Four-dose series at ages 2, 4, 6-18 months, and 4-6 years. Regardless of the number of doses a student has received, the final dose must be administered on or after the 4th birthday <b>and</b> at least six months after the previous dose.</p> <p><b>Catch-up:</b> Dose 4 is not required if Dose 3 was administered on or after the 4th birthday <b>and</b> at least six months after Dose 2. For guidance for children 4 months through 17 years, use the <a href="#">IPV catch-up guidance job aid</a>.</p> <p>*Both IPV and valid doses of OPV may be used to complete a polio series. The total number of doses needed to complete the series is the same as that recommended for the U.S. IPV schedule.</p> <p>For students 18 years and older who are known or suspected to be unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated against polio, refer to the <a href="#">immunization schedule</a> or Appendix A of <a href="#">6 CCR 1009-2</a>.</p>
<b>Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)</b> If two live vaccines are not given on the same day, there must be at least a 28-day interval between the two doses.	2	<p><b>Routine:</b> Two-dose series at 12-15 months and 4-6 years. Dose 1 is not valid if administered more than four days before the 1st birthday. Some children will receive Dose 2 before their 4th birthday. This is valid if both doses are given after the 1st birthday and separated by at least 28 days.</p> <p><b>Catch-up:</b> <b>Two-doses separated by at least 28 day</b></p>
<b>Varicella (chickenpox)</b> If two live vaccines are not given on the same day, there must be at least a 28-day interval between the two doses.	2	<p><b>Routine:</b> Two-dose series at 12-15 months and 4-6 years. Dose 1 is not valid if administered more than four days before the 1st birthday. Note: If a child has <a href="#">previous varicella disease documented by a health care provider</a> or a <a href="#">documented positive antibody titer</a>, the child has met the varicella requirement, and no varicella vaccine is required.</p> <p><b>Catch-up:</b> Age 7-12 years: three months between Dose 1 and 2. Age 13 years and older: 28 days between Dose 1 and 2</p>