



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

RE: Colorado School Required Immunizations

Dear School Nurse,

The School Required Immunization Law follows the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for those immunizations that the Colorado Board of Health (BOH) requires for school entry.

Anyone can review the rules for “School Immunizations” by going to the State’s Immunization Branch website at www.coloradoimmunizations.com. The FAQs for School Required Immunizations under *School Professional Services* provides detailed school immunization guidance and explanation of the ACIP and school rules.

Several vaccine schedules cause confusion. Some examples are Polio, Hepatitis B, MMR and Varicella. This letter contains information on those vaccines, but the Colorado Immunization Branch (CIB) is happy to hear from you if you have questions.

The current ACIP schedule for IPV includes a final dose of IPV (polio vaccine) for students 4 years of age or older, and 6 months after the previous dose (implemented August 7th, 2010). Students who had 4 doses, 4 weeks apart before the age of 4 years and prior to the date of the change (August 7th 2010), meet the ACIP and Colorado school requirement. All students who have had 3 doses of polio vaccine with the 3rd dose at 4 years of age or older and six months after the previous dose also meet the ACIP and Colorado requirement.

Hepatitis B vaccine has very specific intervals between doses. The final dose must be administered on or after 24 weeks of age (about 6 months). This final dose age requirement provides an optimal immune response to the disease and therefore is recommended by ACIP guidelines.

ACIP guidelines for MMR and Varicella vaccines state that the vaccines should be administered no more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. This age requirement provides an optimal immune response. If the 1st doses of MMR and/or Varicella vaccines are administered more than 4 days before the first birthday they do not meet the ACIP guidelines and are not considered valid doses. School requirements include two doses of MMR and two doses of Varicella given on or after the first birthday and at least 4 weeks apart.

Schools are required by law to only accept valid doses according to the ACIP schedule. It is ultimately the responsibility of the parent to work with their health care provider to insure that the student follows the ACIP guidelines and is in compliance with the School Immunization Rule or otherwise meets school immunization compliance by being officially in progress or having a signed exemption on file.

Respectfully,
Jamie

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