



IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED FOR SCHOOL ENTRY

Three more immunizations were required for school beginning in the fall of 2008. You should check with your healthcare provider to determine whether your child needs additional immunizations or booster shots prior to the start of school. Now is the best time to schedule immunization appointments for your children to avoid long waits at doctor's offices in the fall. The current requirements are outlined below.

Age 2 and younger and attending childcare:

Immunization: PCV7 or Prevnar

Protection: Protect against pneumococcal disease, a disease that can cause a serious infection of the blood, meningitis, and pneumonia. Children attending childcare are considered to be at greater risk for developing pneumococcal infection because of the group setting of childcare.

Entering kindergarten:

Immunization: 2 doses of Varicella vaccine

Protection: Protects against varicella (chicken pox), a highly contagious disease that still causes outbreaks in Colorado and throughout the country. Although the school law only requires two doses of the vaccine at kindergarten entry, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends all children receive two doses in order to have the best protection. Parents can check their records to make sure **all** their children have received both doses of the vaccine.

Documentation requirements:

Children entering kindergarten, and students of any age who are new to Colorado schools, who have had chicken pox must now provide proof from a health care provider, either in the form of a note or a lab test. Children without this documentation will be required to get the number of doses required for their age by the school law.

Entering seventh grade:

Immunization: One varicella (chicken pox) immunization, or a documented history of having the disease (if it has not already been reported by the parent) – Although school law does not require two doses for this age, both doses will ensure that children have the best protection.

Entering sixth and tenth grades:

Immunization: Tdap vaccine

Protection: Boosts immunity against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis disease, specifically, continues to be a serious problem in Boulder County. The CDC recommends Tdap for everyone 10 through 64 years of age. Because pertussis is so widespread in our community, we recommend parents get the vaccine for each of their children as well as for themselves.

For more information contact your healthcare provider or log on to www.bouldercountyhealth.org.