IMMUNIZATION
in Colorado Schools (Statewide), 2020-2021

IMMUNIZE COLORADO

Overview

Vaccines are a safe and effective way to prevent the spread of serious disease and keep children healthy as they grow. For each birth cohort vaccinated in the U.S. per the recommended schedule, vaccines save 40,000 lives, prevent 20 million cases of disease, and save nearly $17 billion in direct healthcare costs.

All students and school staff deserve a healthy school environment that supports their wellbeing and builds a strong foundation for learning. It takes an entire community to protect against serious disease. Because diseases such as measles can spread rapidly, adequate vaccination coverage at the school level -- roughly 95% for each vaccine -- helps to protect the health of students, staff and others in the community, including those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons or because they are still too young to receive vaccines. This is known as herd immunity, or community protection.

Vaccination in the COVID-19 Era

As our communities continue to fight COVID-19, we've seen how a child's education can be interrupted and negatively impacted by a disease outbreak. Maintaining high COVID-19 and routine vaccination coverage of eligible students and staff is critical to ensuring their safety and that of those who cannot be vaccinated, preventing additional disease outreabks, keeping kids in school, and preventing disruptions to learning.

14,851 Colorado kids were hospitalized or went to an emergency room with vaccine-preventable diseases in 2019.

96% of vaccine exemptions in Colorado are claimed for non-medical reasons.

30,677 K-12 students entered Colorado schools in 2019-20 without protection from one or more vaccines.

Why It Matters

- While the marjority of Colorado parents vaccinate, data show there is **variation in vaccination coverage** across the state. Areas of low vaccination put children and communities at risk for outbreaks, which can spread rapidly in school settings.
- State and local **vaccination requirements** for school entry are important tools for maintaining high vaccination coverage rates and, in turn, lower rates of dangerous and costly diseases.
- Low vaccination rates can be an indicator that **families may need help understanding which vaccines their children should have** and/or where they can conveniently access free or low-cost vaccines.
- Ensuring high vaccination rates can help **keep students in school,** reducing absenteeism linked to preventable disease in support of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, it's important to maintain high vaccination rates to **prevent additional outbreaks** and subsequent strain on the health care system.

Which Vaccines Are **Required** for School?

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	IPV (Inactivated Poliovirus)
DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	HepB (Hepatitis B)
Tdap (Diptheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	Varicella (Chicken Pox)

Which Vaccines Are Also **Recommended** by the CDC?*

Rotavirus	Influenza (Flu)
Hepatitis A	Pneumococcal
HPV (Human papillomavirus)	MenACWY (Meningococcal)
COVID-19	

*While not required for school, these vaccines are recommended by the CDC for certain age groups. Visit the CDC's website to learn more about the vaccine schedule and the diseases these vaccines prevent.

What Can Schools Do?

REMIND students, families and staff of the importance of on-time vaccination, school vaccine requirements (especially during the pandemic) and additional CDC reommended vaccines such as flu.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS between school administrators, school nurses and local public health to meet state vaccination requirements.

PARTNER with other stakeholders to identify opportunities to deliver and/or improve access to vaccines for students, such as supporting school-based health centers and vaccination clinics.

SEEK SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE from your local public health agency and CDPHE regarding communicable disease control protocol.

STAY INFORMED of science-based immunization information, as well as what's happening with vaccine coverage rates and outbreaks in your community and beyond. Vaccine-preventable disease can spread quickly across regions.

ENCOURAGE families to provide accurate vaccination records rather than claim an exemption out of convenience. Assist families in locating their child's record.

SUPPORT POLICIES that help families access vaccines and ensure appropriate funding for school nurses and resources that save time and money for schools, such as the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS).

Senate Bill 163, passed into law in 2020, changed the process for claiming a non-medical exemption starting for the 2021-22 school year. Learn more.

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in Peyton 23 JT School District, 2020-2021

Recognizing Schools & Districts With High Coverage

The Immunity Community Honor Roll recognizes K-12 schools and districts in Colorado that have achieved exceptional vaccination coverage. For a school to be listed on the Immunity Community Honor Roll and achieve Gold Star Status, it must report vaccination rates that meet the Healthy People 2030 goals: immunization coverage of 95% or above for all school-required vaccines (80% for Tdap for schools with students in 6th grade or higher). For a school district to be listed on the Honor Roll, all schools in the district must achieve Gold Star Status.

18% **of school districts in Colorado achieve Gold Star Status**

49% **of students in Colorado attend a school that achieved Gold Star Status**

Percentage of All Colorado Schools That Meet Healthy People 2030 Goals for Vaccination Coverage, 2020-21

Vaccine/Disease	All K-12 Schools
MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	61%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	53%
DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	69%
HepB (Hepatitis B)	63%
Polio	58%
*Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)	71%

National Healthy People 2030 (HP 2030) goals are to reach 95% coverage for each vaccine (*except Tdap, which is 80%).

*These data include both public and private schools that reported data.
†These data include the following school-required vaccines: HepB, MMR, DTaP, Polio, and Varicella.

How Is My District Doing?*†

Total school district enrollment: 629 students

- The percent of students in Peyton 23 JT School District fully immunized for each vaccine ranges from 69%-96% depending on the specific vaccine.
- Exemption rates for any vaccine range from 0%-11% across individual schools, demonstrating high variability among schools within the district.
- Depending on the vaccine, between 0 and 12 students in Peyton 23 JT School District claimed an exemption.
- Depending on the vaccine, between 0 and 12 students in Peyton 23 JT School District have an incomplete or missing record.

0% of schools in Peyton 23 JT School District achieve Gold Star Status

What Does This Mean for Our Schools?

Vaccination is important to emergency response efforts and helps to prevent absenteeism, exclusions, and other societal and economic costs. In the event of an outbreak, schools with lower coverage in your district may be required to take measures to protect the student population or larger community, such as excluding students who are unvaccinated or do not have a vaccination record on file. Lost days of school can negatively impact a student's education.

To explore your district's data using online dashboards and to access related resources and references, visit **coschooliz.org**

Percentage of Peyton 23 JT School District Students Fully Immunized By Vaccine, 2020-21*

Disease/Vaccine	Fully Immunized
Measles/ MMR	90%
Mumps/ MMR	90%
Rubella/ MMR	90%
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)/ DTaP	91%
Diphtheria/ DTaP	91%
Polio/ IPV	89%
Varicella (Chickenpox)/ VAR	88%

These levels of risk were determined using herd immunity thresholds for each disease in combination with the HP 2020 goals of 95%.

Low Risk of Outbreak
Moderate Risk of Outbreak
High Risk of Outbreak

To access the statewide school immunization data online **covaxrates.org**