

IMMUNIZATION

in Colorado Child Care Centers and Pre-Schools, 2020-2021



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 \$17 billion in direct healthcare costs.

All students and child care staff deserve a healthy environment that supports their wellbeing and builds a strong foundation for early learning and development. It takes an entire community to protect against serious disease. Because diseases like measles and whooping cough can spread quickly, especially in child care settings, high vaccination rates are important to help protect the health of children, staff and others in the community — including those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons or babies still too young to receive vaccines. This is known as herd immunity, or community protection.

Ensuring high vaccination coverage and compliance with child care vaccination policy is important not only for the health of children and staff, but also for emergency response efforts. High vaccination coverage also helps prevent societal and economic costs, absenteeism and exclusions. Now more than ever it is evident that a child's care and education can be interrupted due to a public health crisis like disease outbreak. Vaccination can help avert these interruptions and protect children's learning environments.

Why is Immunization Important During the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine, are critical to protecting kids from dangerous diseases. Keeping children up to date with all recommended vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic is critical protecting them from preventable illness. As with COVID-19, a case or outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease could force children to be excluded from child care and miss out on valuable learning, and could even force child care closures in some cases. Maintaining high vaccination rates can help to stop additional outbreaks of disease in our communities that could further overwhelm our healthcare systems.

Which Vaccines Are Required for Child Care and Pre-School Attendance?

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	Penumococcal
DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	HepB (Hepatitis B)
Inactivated poliovirus (Polio)	Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Hib (Haemophilus influenza type b)	

Which Vaccines Are Also Recommended by the CDC?

Rotavirus*
Hepatitis A*
Influenza (Flu)*

*While not required for child care or pre-school attendance, these vaccines are recommended by the CDC. [Visit the CDC's website](#) to learn more about the vaccine schedule and the diseases that vaccines protect against.

Did You Know?



5,804 Colorado children under age five were hospitalized or visited an emergency department for vaccine-preventable diseases in 2019.*



\$54 million was charged by hospitals and emergency departments to treat children under five for vaccine-preventable diseases in 2019.*



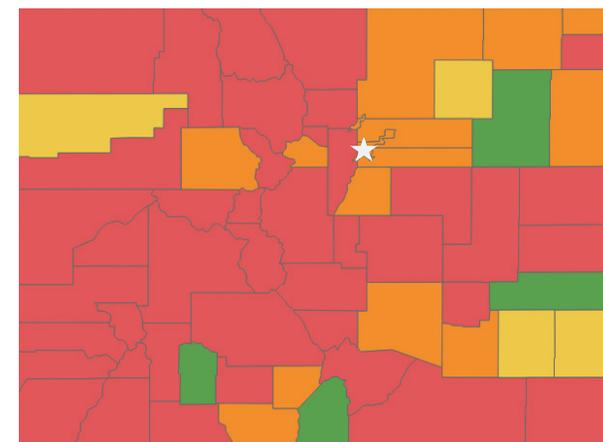
57% of Colorado kids hospitalized with vaccine-preventable disease are five years old or younger.*



97% (approximately) of vaccine exemptions in Colorado are claimed for non-medical reasons.

*Sourced from Colorado Hospital Association data.

County Level Rates of Non-Medical Exemptions for the MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) Vaccine, 2020-2021



0% 1.25% - 2.5%
Lower than 1.25% 2.5% or higher

County-level non-medical exemption rates range from 0% - 37%.

This information can be viewed for each vaccine on the [CDPHE school immunization data website](#) or [Immunize Colorado's data dashboard](#).

Do Colorado Child Care Facilities have Complete Immunization Policies?

A [recent analysis](#) shows approximately **40%** of child care centers in Colorado do not have a vaccination policy available on their website. Of those that do have a vaccination policy available, **62%** are classified as incomplete, meaning that they lack information on one or more important components, including:

1. **WHICH** vaccines are required to comply with the center's policy
2. **WHEN** immunization documentation is required to be shared with the center
3. **HOW** immunization records should be submitted to the center
4. The **CONSEQUENCES** of not complying with the policy
5. **WHETHER** any exemptions to vaccines are allowed

