

Why is it important

to get **vaccinated?**



Vaccines prevent diseases that can be serious.

Vaccines **teach the body** to recognize and mount defenses against disease *without* actually exposing us to pathogens like viruses or bacteria that can make us sick. This is called **vaccine immunity**. Vaccine immunity is a **safer form of immunity than natural immunity**, which we only build *after* getting an infection. Infections can be serious and lead to complications. For example, measles can lead to pneumonia, seizures, and encephalitis (brain swelling).

Not getting vaccinated or delaying vaccines leaves us **vulnerable to diseases and their complications**.



Vaccines are incredibly safe.

While vaccines can cause **mild side effects** like pain and low-grade fever, severe side effects, like allergic reactions, are very rare—one in a million. **The risks of infection are much greater.**

Vaccines are **carefully tested** before they become publicly available. Afterward, they are constantly **monitored for safety**. In fact, there is more safety data on vaccines than over-the-counter supplements like Tylenol. Millions of kids in the U.S. have safely received vaccines over the years!



Vaccines protect us and our communities.

Because diseases like measles can spread quickly, it is important to make sure vaccination rates in schools and child care centers are high to protect the health of all students, school staff, and other community members. It takes all of us to protect ourselves, our families, and others from getting sick.

Which vaccines are required for school and child care entry in Colorado?

➔ School

- Hepatitis B
- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTap)
- Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)

➔ Child Care

- Hepatitis B
- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTap)
- Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)
- Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)
- Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13 or PCV15)
- Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (chicken pox)



Questions about vaccines? Visit www.ImmunizeColorado.org or talk to your school nurse.