

# Child care immunization table

## Vaccines required for preschool and by kindergarten entry, 2026-2027

### Background:

1. This table may be used as a guide to evaluate the number of valid doses a child must receive by month of age to comply with [state immunization requirements](#).
2. Immunization requirements must be enforced. Students who do not meet the requirements must be denied attendance according to Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#).
3. Before a child's first day of child care or preschool, Colorado law requires parents or guardians to provide each school their child attends with at least one of the following:
  - A. **An immunization record** showing that the child has received school-required vaccines and is up to date according to their age,
    - Schools and child cares are required to have a completed [Official Colorado Certificate of Immunization](#) in the student's electronic or hard copy file. An immunization record also includes documentation of positive titers as an acceptable alternative for certain vaccine components. Use CDPHE's [titer interpretation guidance resource](#) to determine which titers are an acceptable alternative to documentation of one or more school-required vaccines.
  - B. **An in-process plan** signed by the child's health care provider showing that the student is in the process of catching up on missing vaccine(s) following the minimum intervals between doses described in the [catch-up schedule \(Table 2\)](#),
    - Students who fall out of compliance during the school year may still attend for a limited time. Within seven days of the finding of immunization noncompliance, the child care must directly notify the parent/guardian, who then has 30 days to provide them with updated immunization documentation. This documentation must be: (1) an immunization record showing the student received the missing dose(s) of school-required vaccine(s), and if applicable, an in-process plan ([sample](#)) showing the student will be obtaining the remaining school-required vaccines following the minimum intervals between doses described in the [catch-up schedule \(Table 2\)](#), or (2) a Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption. If, after 30 days, no immunization documentation is received, the child care must exclude the student per Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#).
  - C. **A Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption** for any missing doses of school-required vaccine(s).
    - Parents/guardians must follow [Colorado's process](#) to obtain a certificate of exemption. Certificates of exemption expire and need to be renewed at specified intervals. Visit the [exemptions to school-required vaccines](#) webpage for more information, or the [child care professionals](#) webpage for guides to verify whether an exemption is complete.

To meet the requirements, students may have one or a combination of these documents for school-required vaccines. Per Board of Health rule [6 CCR 1009-2](#), students not in compliance with the immunization requirements may not start school or child care.

4. Vaccines **required** for child care include hepatitis B (HepB), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP), *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib), polio (IPV), pneumococcal conjugate (PCV), measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), and varicella (chickenpox).
5. Schools and child cares can enroll in the [Colorado Immunization Information System \(CIIS\)](#), which allows them to access and review immunization records. Email [cdphe\\_ciis\\_schools@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe_ciis_schools@state.co.us) for more information.

### How to use the child care immunization table:

1. Review the child's immunization record alongside this table to determine if they have the required number of valid doses.
  - The Colorado Board of Health follows the [immunization schedule](#) developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) with the following exceptions:
    - Students between the ages of 4 and 6 years are required to receive their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR, and varicella vaccines prior to kindergarten entry.
2. Use the student's age to select the appropriate row. Do **not** advance to the next row until the student has reached that age.
  - For example, continue using the 3-month row for a student who is 4 months and 3 weeks of age (not yet 5 months).
3. For students whose vaccinations have been delayed, refer to the catch-up guidance and job aids to determine the number of doses needed.
  - In some instances, fewer doses of DTaP, Hib, PCV, and IPV will fulfill the required number of doses.

By \_\_\_\_ months of age, the child is required to have received \_\_\_\_ valid doses of vaccine.  
(fill in) (fill in)

Age	Number of required valid doses:						
	Vaccines must be given no earlier than the <a href="#">minimum intervals and ages</a> in order to be valid. A four-day grace period applies in most situations, though should <b>not</b> be applied to the 28-day interval between two different live virus vaccines (i.e., MMR or varicella).						
	Hepatitis (HepB)*	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)†	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> B (Hib)‡	Polio (IPV)§	Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV)¶	Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)#	Varicella (Chickenpox)**
1 month	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
3 months	2	1	1 (any Hib product)	1	1	--	--
5 months	2	2	2 (any Hib product)	2	2	--	--
7 months	2	3	3 (any Hib product) or 2 (PedvaxHib)	2	3	--	--
16 months	2	3	4 (any Hib product) or 3 (PedvaxHIB)	2	4	1	1
19 months	3	4	4 (any Hib product) or 3 (PedvaxHIB)	3	4	1	1
By kindergarten entry††	3	5	--	4	--	2	2

**Catch-up** refers to “those who **start late** or who are **more than 1 month behind.**” Once a child catches up to the number of doses required for their age, return to using [routine](#) recommendations (Table 1) for timing future vaccinations.

\***HepB** is a three-dose series scheduled at ages 0 (birth), 1-2 months, and 6-18 months. The minimum age for the final dose is 24 weeks. If Dose 3 is given before 24 weeks, a fourth dose is required. Four doses of hepatitis B vaccine are permitted when a combination vaccine is used. **Catch-up:** Older students require a minimum of three appropriately spaced doses. Minimum intervals are 0 (Dose 1), four weeks (Dose 2), eight weeks, **and** at least 16 weeks after the first dose (Dose 3).

†**DTaP** is a five-dose series scheduled at 2, 4, 6, 15-18 months, and 4-6 years of age. By kindergarten entry, five doses of DTaP are required or four doses if the fourth dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday and was given at least six months after Dose 3. **Catch-up:** For children 4 months through 6 years, use the [DTaP catch-up guidance job aid](#).

‡**Hib** is a three- or four-dose series depending on product type. Four doses for most Hib products (or when mixing PedvaxHIB with other Hib products), scheduled at 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months of age, or three doses with PedvaxHIB (scheduled at 2, 4, 12-15 months). **Catch-up:** A single dose of Hib vaccine administered at 15 months through 4 years meets the Hib requirement. Previously unvaccinated children who are 60 months or older do not require Hib vaccination. For children 4 months through 4 years, use the [Hib catch-up guidance job aid](#) or the [catch-up guidance job aid for PedVaxHib only](#).

§**IPV** is a four-dose series scheduled at 2, 4, 6-18 months, and 4-6 years of age. By kindergarten entry, four doses of IPV are required or three doses if the third dose was administered on or after the 4th birthday and was given at least six months after Dose 2. The final dose must be given no earlier than 4 years. **Catch-up:** For children 4 months through 17 years, use the [IPV catch-up guidance job aid](#).

¶**PCV** is a four-dose series scheduled at 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months of age. **Catch-up:** A single dose of PCV vaccine administered at 24 months through 4 years meets the PCV requirement. Previously unvaccinated children who are 60 months or older do not require PCV vaccination. For children 4 months through 4 years, use the [PCV catch-up job aid](#).

#**MMR** is a two-dose series scheduled at 12-15 months and 4-6 years of age. Dose 1 is not valid if administered more than four days before the 1st birthday. Some children will receive Dose 2 before their 4th birthday. This is valid if both doses are given after the 1st birthday and separated by at least 28 days. Two valid doses are required for students entering kindergarten. **Catch-up:** Unvaccinated children: two-doses separated by at least 28 days.

\*\***Varicella** is a two-dose series scheduled at 12-15 months and 4-6 years of age. Dose 1 is not valid if administered more than four days before the 1st birthday. Two valid doses are required for students entering kindergarten. **Catch-up:** Unvaccinated children: two doses at least three months apart. Note: If a child has [previous varicella disease documented by a health care provider](#) or a **documented positive antibody titer**, the child has met the varicella requirement, and no varicella vaccine is required.

††**Kindergarten entry:** Hib and PCV are **not** required for students in kindergarten through grade 12.