



Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

April 22, 2015

Dear Health Care Providers,

The Colorado Immunization Branch (CIB) wants to share with you an update to our immunization rules for school entry. Child care centers and schools will follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) schedule beginning in the 2015-16 school year. The immunizations required for child care and preschool include Hepatitis B, DTaP, Polio, Hib, PCV13, MMR and Varicella. Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade requirements include Hepatitis B, Polio DTaP/Tdap, MMR and Varicella. The Colorado Board of Health has approved alignment with the 2015 ACIP schedule by reference for all Colorado schools.

It is important that providers follow the ACIP schedule closely to ensure that children will be up to date at entry into child care or school. Doses that are not administered at the appropriate ages and intervals are deemed as invalid doses by the CDC. This primarily occurs when doses are given too close together, or are given before the recommended age. ***Any invalid doses will need to be repeated so that the school can accept those immunization records from student's parents.***

Students in grades 8 through 12, who were previously required to show evidence of 1 dose of varicella vaccine, will now be required to provide the school with evidence of 2 doses of varicella as recommended by the ACIP schedule. CIB has provided schools with a letter that can be sent to parents to inform them of the updated varicella vaccine requirement:  
[https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Imm\\_Varicella-letter-parents\\_4-14-2015.pdf](https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Imm_Varicella-letter-parents_4-14-2015.pdf)

We know that many of Colorado providers access the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) which can assist you in determining if students are up-to-date per the ACIP schedule. You can obtain information about CIIS by visiting the website at:  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/colorado-immunization-information-system-ciis>

Thank you for all you do in keeping Colorado kids healthy!

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