

Aug. 4, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Student immunizations crucial health component

Parents should be aware of the Colorado School Entrance and Immunization Law, which requires all students to provide proof of immunizations to attend school or child care. A child's immunization record must be presented by the first day the child attends school or child care. Your school clinic aide is available to assist parents with immunization information.

The following vaccines are required for school age children effective to attend school or child care July 2005 through June 2006 (there have been no changes from last year):

varicella (chicken pox) vaccine

Varicella vaccine is required for children attending preschool through grade 5. Disease history from a health care provider, parent, or guardian or a laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable. If a child has had the chickenpox, the vaccine is not needed.

MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine

Two doses of MMR are required for kindergarten, grades 1-5 and grades 7-12.

DTP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis)

In Colorado, five doses of pertussis, tetanus and diphtheria vaccines are required for all children upon entry into school in Colorado. Discuss the need for a tetanus booster with the student's healthcare provider.

polio vaccine

Four doses of the polio vaccine are required at school entry in Colorado unless the third dose was administered on or after the child's 4th birthday, in which case only three doses are required. Students who have been in a Colorado school system prior to July 1, 2000, have been certified with three doses and are not required to have additional doses.

hepatitis B vaccine

The complete series of three doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine is required for all students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Parents or guardians should contact their physician, health care provider or the county health department to review a student's immunization requirements. To

obtain information regarding free or low cost immunizations, please call the Family Health Line, 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777.

The medical, religious and personal exemptions continue to be in effect for all immunizations. For these exemptions the Statement of Exemption to the Immunization Law on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Certificate of Immunization must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. The Certificate of Immunization forms are available at the schools.

Jefferson County Department of Health and Environment offers immunization services by appointment only. To make an appointment for immunizations, call 303-232-6301. Jefferson County Public Health Department locations:

- 6303 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada
- 260 S. Kipling St., Lakewood
- Mountain Resource Center, Conifer Highways 285 and 73

###

For information, contact Jeffco Public Schools Health Services Department, 303-982-7251.