

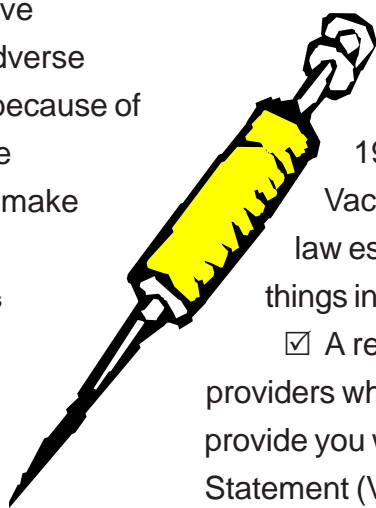


VACCINATIONS: It's Your Choice

Should you trust vaccinations? Vaccines have virtually wiped out deadly diseases such as polio and small pox. On the other hand, the use of vaccinations is not without risks. Many people have experienced serious adverse reactions, even death, because of vaccines. Be sure you're informed BEFORE you make a choice.

HOW DO Vaccines Work?

A vaccination, also called immunization, usually involves injecting "dead" viruses to activate a person's immune system. The immune system then creates antibodies against the virus so that if the vaccinated person is exposed to the actual "live" virus, the body will use those antibodies to fight it. Most people do not experience adverse reactions to vaccines; however, those with autoimmune deficiencies and other disorders may be at risk.



Vaccination Safety

Vaccines are created under strict guidelines established by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In addition, the manufacturers of vaccines also complete testing on their products. However, no vaccine is 100% safe or effective. In 1986, the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act was passed. This law established several important things including:

- A requirement that health care providers who administer immunizations provide you with a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) prior to giving the vaccination. Each VIS contains a brief description of the disease as well as the risks and benefits of the vaccine.
- A mandate that requires all health care providers to report adverse reactions to vaccinations to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

You DO Have a Choice

In Colorado, you have the option of choosing not to vaccinate your child. A state

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law provides an exemption for immunizations on the basis of religious or personal beliefs. ***In addition, the law mandates that all school districts must inform parents of their right to ask for an immunization exemption.*** You should carefully review the risks and benefits of the vaccinations recommended for your child, including talking with all of your child's health care providers prior to making a decision. (See below for a sample exemption form.)

Chiropractic Helps

Chiropractic treatment focuses primarily on the health of the nervous system. Your spine is the direct link from your brain to your entire nervous system. Altered spinal function may interfere with nerve function in your body, causing not only back pain, but possibly many other types of health problems. Keeping your spine, and your child's spine, healthy can help your bodies fight disease and function at top performance. Make chiropractic care part of you and your child's health and fitness plan. ■

Colorado Statistics on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

These statistics represent reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases in Colorado from 1996-2000.

MEASLES	RUBELLA	PERTUSSIS
1996 - 7	1996 - 3	1996 - 344
1997 - 0	1997 - 0	1997 - 415
1998 - 0	1998 - 0	1998 - 357
1999 - 0	1999 - 1	1999 - 310
2000 - 2	2000 - 1	2000 - 488
MUMPS	TETANUS	POLIO & DIPHTHERIA
1996 - 5	1996 - 1	No cases reported 1996-2000
1997 - 3	1997 - 2	
1998 - 7	1998 - 0	
1999 - 5	1999 - 0	
2000 - 1	2000 - 0	

These statistics available on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment web site at www.cdph.state.co.us/cdphehom.asp

Vaccination Information

National Immunization Program

information on vaccination safety and VIS forms
www.cdc.gov/nip
(800) 232-2522 English
(800) 232-0233 Spanish

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

www.vaers.org or (800) 822-7967

Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

www.hrsa.gov/bhpr/vicp or (800) 338-2382

Colorado Immunization Law

<http://64.78.178.125/stat01/index.htm>
Go to search by number
Put in 25-4-902
see 25-4-903 (b) for exemption information

SAMPLE Colorado School Immunization Agreement based on information in Colorado Law Section 25-4-903

STUDENT'S NAME (last name first): _____

Please check appropriate box and sign below:

- I understand I must submit completed immunization records before my Kindergarten child will be allowed to attend school.
- I will submit completed immunization records within 60 days for any student who is not a kindergartner. I understand that any child who fails to comply with this requirement may be suspended or expelled from school until a certification of immunization is provided.
- Medical Exemption I will submit certification from a licensed physician that one or more specified immunizations would endanger the child's life or health.
- Religious Exemption I will submit a signed statement of my opposition to immunizations because of a religious belief.
- Personal Exemption I will submit a signed statement of my opposition to immunizations because of a personal belief.
Please note: In the event of a Rubeola (measles) outbreak, all students with medical, religious, or personal exemptions will be excluded from school until there are no more identified cases.

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Emancipated Child

Date