



IMMUNIZATIONS

Frequently asked questions for parents

Where can I get my child immunized?

- ❖ Your child's primary care physician
 - ❖ The Mesa County Health Department, 248-6900, by appointment
The Community Services Building (29 ½ Rd. and North Avenue)
510 29 ½ Rd. Grand Junction
- OR
- Fruita clinic location, 248-6900

What if the first available appointment at my child's doctor's office is after school starts?

You need to give the name of the doctor and the date of the appointment to your school's health assistant or school nurse. This information will ensure that you have a plan in place to get your child the required immunization. With a plan in place, your child will be allowed to attend school.

What if we just moved and I don't have my child's immunization records?

- ❖ You can call your child's previous school and ask them to fax the immunization record directly to the new school.
- ❖ You can call your child's previous medical provider and ask them to fax the immunization record directly to the new school.
- ❖ You can sign a plan stating that you will provide the needed record within 14 days of the start of school.
- ❖ If there is no way to obtain an immunization record, you will have to talk with your child's current medical provider or a public health nurse from the Mesa County Health Department regarding whether the immunizations will need to be given again. Then provide the plan for getting the immunizations to the school.

What is the Tdap?

This is an additional requirement, even if your child was up-to-date with all vaccinations when he/she entered kindergarten. Tdap is a Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis booster. It provides the added protection of pertussis (whooping cough) to the standard Tetanus booster. Colorado state law now requires one Tdap shot for students entering 6th grade and higher. Tdap is given only once in a lifetime.

What if our religion states that we should not immunize?

Colorado state law says that an exemption from immunizations is acceptable if parents or guardians practice a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations.

What if I personally don't believe in immunizations for my child?

Colorado state law says that an exemption from immunizations is acceptable if parents or guardians have a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations.

What if my child cannot get an immunization due to a health problem?

Colorado state law says that an exemption from an immunization or immunizations is acceptable if a licensed physician has signed a statement indicating that the immunization(s) is medically contraindicated.