

**STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE
AND SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR**
Proposed Amendments to Rules and Regulations Pertaining to
The Infant Immunization Program and
The Immunization of Students Attending School
Amendments to 6 CCR 1009-2

September 9, 2011

Basis and Purpose.

There has been confusion regarding the “recommended” immunization schedule versus the “required” school immunization schedule. The recommended immunization schedule is approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) and provides guidance to health care providers administering vaccines to children. The recommended vaccine schedule is a “best-practice” schedule. The Colorado “required” immunization schedule determines which immunizations must be administered (or exempted) for school and child care attendance. Some of the school immunizations follow the ACIP recommended schedule and some do not. In order to eliminate confusion for clinicians, schools, and child cares, and to provide a best-practice immunization schedule for required immunizations in schools, the Colorado Immunization Program (CIP) proposes aligning the Colorado “required” immunization schedule intervals with the ACIP “recommended” schedule intervals so that children will be optimally immunized against vaccine preventable diseases and the confusion about the two schedules will be eliminated. No new vaccines are being proposed. The age limit for a final dose of the pneumococcal vaccine has been extended to align with ACIP’s vaccine schedule and to provide optimum protection against pneumococcal disease for children in child care settings.

Immunization schedules can be confusing. Language has been included to add clarity to the Table 1 footnotes (b, f, k & l) that provide guidance regarding specific vaccines. One of the footnotes (o) is being removed as it is not part of the varicella requirement.

It was discovered that there exists in the Colorado Revised Statutes: School Entry Immunization, sections 25-4-902, 25-4-902.5, 25-4-903 & 25-4-905, the naming of a health care provider classification (advanced practice nurse) that is not reflected in the Board of Health rules. The inclusion of that health care provider classification is being added in “Section I. Definitions, L. Practitioner” & “Section II. Exemptions From Immunization, A. Medical exemption.”

Specific Statutory Authority. These rules are promulgated pursuant to the following statutes:

Section 25-4-901 (Definitions) CRS

Section 25-4-903, (Exemptions from Immunization) CRS

Section 25-4-904 (Rules and regulations - immunization rules - rule-making authority of state board of health - Table 1 (Minimum Number of Doses Required for Certificate of Immunization) of the BOH rules: Pneumococcal Conjugate and footnotes b, f, k, l, o.

Major Factual and Policy Issues Encountered.

The consideration of the proposed rule changes are consistent with the terms and language in statute and with the recommendations issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. No factual or policy issues were encountered. Issues were discussed in a series of BOH workgroup meetings (members included school nurses, child care nurse consultants, immunization coalition representatives, physicians involved in children's health and immunization issues and public health agency representatives).

Alternative Rules Considered and Why Rejected.

Alternative rules were not considered in the discussions.