

DCP Position Statement on Immunization Requirements

The current measles outbreak, combined with Colorado's low vaccination rates for the MMR vaccine, puts our children and our schools at risk. This particular situation shows how challenging managing measles or any major communicable disease can be in a group child care setting, where people are in such close proximity on a daily basis.

It is for this reason that our Executive Board has been in the process of researching the issue of measles and other major communicable diseases, as well as best practices and policies in regards to vaccinations for schools like DCP.

DCP - Updated Policy and Procedure for Student Immunization Records

At this time, DCP will continue to accept children who are either partially immunized or fully exempt from immunizations due to medical, religious, or personal reasons.

In compliance with the most recent requirements of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and HB-1288 - Our school will be auditing all student health records for the purpose of tracking immunization and exemption rates for our enrolled student population. This most recent requirement for school states that this information must be made publicly available upon request of the CDPHE in order to provide assistance with the analysis and interpretation of immunization data.

Our goal is to maintain a high "[community immunity](#)" rate for all students and staff at DCP being fully immunized according to the [most recent immunization schedule](#) according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

DCP will be changing our policy beginning in the 2015-2016 school year in regards to the acceptance of students who are not fully immunized by adding additional requirements for anyone choosing to enroll a child who is either partially or fully exempt from immunizations due to non-medical reasons:

1. If a family chooses to "opt out" of any or all vaccines for non-medical reasons, we will require documentation of "*Informed Refusal*".
2. **Informed refusal** means that it will now be required that the parent/guardian of the child seeking exemption(s) hold an exemption-specific conversation with a health-care provider, and then to present signed evidence of such a conversation to the school before that child can begin attending classes.
 - a. This documentation will need to be renewed with your health-care provider every year.
 - b. Documentation of informed refusal will be required along with a copy of an immunization record showing exemption(s), and a current general health appraisal. All forms must be signed by a health-care provider.
3. **ALL FAMILIES** will be required to submit current health appraisal and immunization records that have been signed by a health-care provider to the school as they occur throughout the year.
4. **ALL STUDENTS** are required to have current health and immunization paperwork that has been signed by a health-care provider on file before they can begin attending classes at the beginning of each school year. **No exceptions will be made.**

After all enrollment and health/immunization paperwork has been collected at the beginning of each school year, the DCP administrative staff makes it a priority to maintain current student health records at all times. As such, we will notify you by email when your child's health records have either expired or are nearing expiration and you will have 30 days to submit current paperwork to the main office.

1. Should a student's health/immunization records remain expired (non-compliant) for more than 30 days after notifying the parent/guardian, they will not be allowed to return to class until current health/immunization paperwork that has been signed by a health-care provider has been submitted. **No exceptions will be made.**

Rather than eliminating personal choice in this matter, we are choosing to make a strong organizational recommendation with the release of this position statement in order to reflect the fact that making the personal choice to go unvaccinated does have an affect on our community at large. At DCP we believe that children deserve both a good education and good health. It is our position that these updated immunization requirements will protect both.

Thank you for your help in reducing the likelihood of communicable diseases spreading in our community.

If you have any questions please call Denver Public Health at 303-602-3614.

For more information about measles, visit www.cdc.gov/measles

Regards,

Janee McConnell
Executive Director
Denver Cooperative Preschool
email - janee@dcpplay.org
office - 303-777-6867
fax - 303-777-1252