

Summary of Legislation 2026



Public Health

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Introduction

The second session of the 75th General Assembly passed several pieces of legislation regarding public health. While not all of the public health legislation fell into these groups, three major themes for public health were public health labeling and education, water testing, and immunization.

Public Health Labeling and Education

As in previous years, the legislators attempted to increase public health awareness by increasing public health related educational and labeling requirements within the state.

[House Bill 26-1044](#) requires the Colorado medical and nursing boards to consider, as part of its stakeholder process for continuing medical education, a requirement that a physician complete continuing medical education on cultural competence and equity in maternal care. This bill also establishes several authorizations related to maternal health equity, including allowing for a statewide birthing parent survey, codification of the Maternal Health Task Force, and requirements for health facilities

to make available a statement of birthing parent's rights.

On or after July 1, 2027, [House Bill 26-1135](#) requires a manufacturer of a hair relaxer product or a synthetic hairpiece product that contains a carcinogen or a reproductive toxicant to include a warning label that notifies the consumer that the covered hair product contains such a substance. In the case of an online transaction, the hair product must include a clear and obvious online warning statement to the consumer. The bill includes prescriptive text and font size for the warning label or online statement. A manufacturer that violates the labeling requirement is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation.

Water Testing

The General Assembly also continued existing public health initiatives, particularly in regard to drinking water in schools, that were otherwise set to expire.

In 2022, the general assembly enacted House Bill 22-1358 which required child care centers, family child care homes, and public schools that serve any of grades preschool through eighth grade to test their drinking water sources by measuring the lead content of water drawn from each drinking water source; and satisfy other requirements

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concerning the provision of safe drinking water. [House Bill 26-1391](#) extends these provisions, with amendments, until June 30, 2029. The act also adds high schools (serving grades 9 to 12) to the scope, which means that high schools may receive grants from the clean drinking water fund and must satisfy certain requirements on or before dates specified in the act.

Immunization

Due to continuing changes being made at the federal level, the General Assembly introduced legislation aimed at streamlining vaccine recommendations in the state.

[Senate Bill 26-032](#) updates existing law and adds new provisions concerning vaccines as follows:

authorizes the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to rely on immunization guidance from specified national medical professional organizations, in addition to the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guidance, when establishing and administering immunization requirements and to negotiate for and purchase board-approved vaccines;

codifies in statute that pharmacists can independently prescribe vaccines, and requires the State Board of Pharmacy to review related record-keeping rules;

updates liability provisions related to vaccines required for school entry by

allowing compliance with either immunization schedule published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the schedule established by the State Board of Health;

creates the “Adult Immunization Act” to mirror the Infant Immunization Act in establishing limitations on liability for vaccine administration to adults; and

authorizes the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to purchase vaccines recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and specified national medical professional organizations.