

Immunizations Required for School Entry Update for School Staff (School Year 2015-16)

Background:

Current California State Law requires that children in California are required to receive certain immunizations in order to attend public and private schools and childcare centers.

In limited circumstances, some children who have not received one or more required immunizations may attend child care or school while they catch up on these immunizations, known as “conditional admission.” See <http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/conditional-admission/> for further information.

Schools, child care centers, and family child care homes are required to:

- Enforce immunization requirements,
- Maintain immunization records of all students enrolled, and
- Submit reports to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

New Immunization Law SB 277 Effective 2016

2015 Current Registration Immunizations Required for School Entry: No Changes to Annual Notice to Parents are necessary.

- [Immunizations required for school entry](#) remain the same. There will be no changes to the immunization requirements for students entering school in the summer or fall of 2015.
- Students may continue to submit personal-belief exemptions to required immunizations through December 31, 2015.
- Annual Immunization Reporting to CDPH remains the same. The deadline for Kindergarten is October 15, and the deadline for 7th grade is November 1st. Marin School Nurses Organization (MSNO) members/school nurses complete the reporting with support from Public Health.

***Effective January 1st, 2016 Personal-Belief Exemptions No Longer Accepted:
District Students Impacted for the 2016-2017 Year.***

Starting January 1, 2016:

- Parents or guardians of students in any school or child care, whether public or private, will no longer be allowed to submit a personal beliefs exemption to a currently-required vaccine.
- Students will no longer be required to have immunizations for entry if they attend.
 - A home-based private school or
 - An independent study program with no classroom-based instruction.
 - However, parents or guardians must continue to provide immunization records from these students to their schools, and schools must continue to maintain and report records of immunizations that have been received by these students.
- The immunization requirements do not prohibit pupils from accessing special education and related services required by their individualized education programs.

Q: Will personal beliefs exemptions filed during or after 2016 be valid? No.

Starting in 2016 personal beliefs exemptions will no longer be an option for the vaccines that are currently required for entry into school or child care in California.

For Transfer Students:

- **Q: Is a personal beliefs exemption still valid if a student transfers between child care facilities or schools in California after 2015?**
Yes, a personal belief exemption filed with a child care facility or school before January 1, 2016 is valid until the next immunization checkpoint (kindergarten or 7th grade). Personal belief exemptions can be transferred between child care facilities and schools in California, both within and across school districts.
- **Q: Is a personal beliefs exemption from another state or country valid if a student transfers to a California school?**
No.

Medical Exemptions Permitted:

- For a medical exemption, a parent or guardian must submit a written statement from a licensed physician (M.D. or D.O.). Other practitioners besides licensed physicians (M.D.s and D.O.s) may **not** provide a medical exemption to a required immunization.

Next Steps: Marin County Health Department and MCOE Planning for Implementation of SB 277

- **Public Health and MCOE will distribute** bulletins to Districts as specific guidelines are released from the State.
- **Trainings about changing immunization requirements for schools are being scheduled** for November, January, and February.
 - These trainings are targeted to administrators, administrative secretaries, registrars, and all other staff who are responsible for enforcing immunization requirements and submitting immunization reports to the State.
 - These trainings will review updates to immunizations in anticipation of Kindergarten enrollment registration, 6th graders advancing to 7th grade, and transfer students for fall 2016 enrollment.
- **Annual Fall Immunization Reporting will continue** to be required by all private and public schools. Public Health is a resource for schools to ensure students meet requirements and for completing the report.

Resources

For more information on school immunization requirements, please visit Shotsforschool.org <http://www.shotsforschool.org/>

Links to specific topics:

- [Parent's Guide to Immunizations Required for School Entry \(Updated 08/2015\)](#)
- [Exemption Laws](#)
- [Conditional Admission](#)