

Medical Immunization Waiver Laws “Cheat Sheet”

Background: Current law states that students who have not had the required immunizations may not attend school. Exemptions may be issued based on a written statement from a licensed physician if the doctor believes that the immunization is not safe for the student due to an existing medical condition.

SB 276 states:

- CA Department of Public Health (CDPH) must develop a state-wide, standardized, electronic exemption request form. Forms will be transmitted via the California Immunization Registry (CAIR).
- Forms must be submitted to the school via CAIR or printed, signed, and submitted in paper form. After **January 1, 2021**, no school can accept any other form of medical waiver.
- Schools must report annually on immunization status of new students, and local health departments must have access to immunization records for each student.
- CDPH will review medical exemption data for:
 - Schools with an overall immunization rate below 95%.
 - Physicians who submit more than 5 exemption forms per calendar year.
 - Schools who do not report immunization rates to CDPH.
- State health officials could revoke inappropriate or invalid medical exemptions under certain circumstances (subject to appeal).

SB 714 modifies SB 276 in three ways:

- Grandfathers in exemptions submitted before **January 1, 2020** as valid for as long as the child is enrolled in the current grade span (Birth – PreK; TK/K – 6; 7 – 12). Students enrolling in the next grade span cannot rely on these grandfathered exemptions.
- Doctors are not subject to perjury prosecution based on medical exemptions.
- CDPH can revoke any current medical exemption if the issuing doctor has been disciplined by the state medical board for any reason.