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## RE: Immunization Requirements

In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, we want to remind you of the Immunization laws which went into effect.

In June 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 277 (SB 277) into law. This legislation no longer permits parents/guardians to submit a personal belief exemption for required vaccinations starting January 1, 2016. Personal Belief Exemptions submitted on or before December 31, 2015 will be in effect until the student enters the next grade span:

- Birth to Preschool
- Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten to Sixth Grade
- Seventh to Twelfth Grade

On September 9, 2019, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bills 276 and 714 which makes changes to immunization requirements for all K-12 students in California public schools. The new law requires more specific documentation to support medical exemptions, limits the duration of medical exemptions, and allows state health officials to determine if an exemption should be revoked. Notably, the new law provides the following:

### Effective January 1, 2020:

- A child who has submitted a medical exemption before January 1, 2020, may continue to enroll in school until the child enrolls in the next "grade span." Grade spans are defined as follows:
  - Birth to Preschool
  - Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten to Sixth Grade
  - Seventh to Twelfth Grade
- When a child completes one grade span and seeks to enroll in the next, parents must submit a new medical exemption.
- The California Department of Public Health will create a monitoring system that includes review of schools whose overall immunization rates are less than 95 percent; schools that do not provide annual reports of vaccination rates; and physicians who submit more than five medical exemptions in one year, starting January 1, 2020.

The law does allow for a medical exemption. The medical exemption may be obtained through a licensed physician medical doctor (M.D.) or a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.). There is not a medical exemption form, but the exemption should come from the doctor in a letter. The exemption letter must include the following information:

- The physical condition or medical circumstances of the child are such that the required immunization(s) is not indicated
- Which vaccines are being exempt
- Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary
- The expiration date, if the exemption is temporary



**Effective January 1, 2021:**

- Schools may no longer accept any type of written statement from a licensed physician. Instead, physicians must complete a standardized exemption form that contains specified information, and they must submit those forms electronically, both to the school and also the California Immunization Registry. Unless a standardized medical exemption form is on file, schools may not admit students who are not fully immunized on the basis of a medical exemption.
- Exemptions based on temporary medical conditions will continue to be valid for only one year. Exemptions based on permanent medical conditions will be valid for only one grade span. When a child with a permanent medical condition completes one grade span and seeks to enroll in the next, physicians must complete a new exemption form.

Students who do not have proof of meeting this requirement will not be allowed to attend school until the immunization requirement is met.

If you have specific questions about the required immunizations and your child's needs, please consult with your medical provider. If you have additional questions regarding the new law, please visit the California Department of Public Health website at <http://www.shotsforschool.org/>.

It is our goal to provide information in a timely manner to maximize student learning and meet the needs of our community.

Respectfully,

*Sherry Butler*

Sherry Butler  
Student Services Coordinator