



Medical Exemptions and Immunization Compliance

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Guardians,

Changes to Medical Exemption requirements went into effect January 1, 2021. We are sharing these changes with you so that you can work with your child's healthcare provider to make sure your child is in compliance with California law (California Code of Regulations Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4).

California schools are required by law to check the immunization records for all new student admissions at Pre-K/Kindergarten through 12th grade and all students advancing to 7th grade **before** entry. These requirements also apply to students new to IUSD schools. Please refer to [Shots for Schools](#) on the CDPH website for specific immunization requirements for all grade levels.

Effective January 1, 2021:

- Schools and Child Care facilities may only accept medical exemptions that are issued through [CAIR-ME](#).
- Temporary and Permanent Medical exemptions can only be issued through the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption website ([CAIR-ME](#)) by a licensed California physician not on the State of California Disciplined Physicians list.
- A medical exemption must be issued through [CAIR-ME](#) no more than 12 months before a child first enters a grade span (grade spans are Birth-Preschool, Pre-K/K-6th, and 7th-12th).
- A note from a physician verifying vaccine titer immunity is **no longer sufficient documentation to meet California school requirements**. After a titer is done by the physician a [CAIR ME](#) document will need to be submitted.
- Varicella immunization requirement for Pre-K/K-12 admission is two doses. Schools can no longer accept "history of chickenpox (had disease)" or a note from a physician stating, "Had Disease". **This is not sufficient documentation to meet the California school requirements**. A titer can be done by the child's physician to verify immunity and then a [CAIR-ME](#) document will need to be submitted **or** the vaccine may be administered by the physician.

Please consult with your healthcare provider if your child currently has or will need a medical exemption and will be starting Pre-K/Kindergarten, entering 7th grade **or** is new to IUSD schools.

[Shots for School Exemption FAQ](#)