



Medical Exemptions and Immunization Compliance School Year 2021-2022

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Guardians,

There have been recent changes to Medical Exemption requirements that went into effect January 1, 2021. We are sharing these changes with you so that you may 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 TK/Kindergarten through 12th grade and all students advancing to 7th grade **before** entry. If a child is entering TK/Kindergarten or advancing to 7th grade in the fall of 2021 or later, the child must meet the new medical exemption requirements. These requirements also apply for students entering a new school. Please refer to the link www.shotsforschool.org for specific requirements for all grade levels.

For admissions on or after January 1, 2021, what is required for a medical exemption to a required immunization?

Starting January 1, 2021:

- Medical exemptions can only be issued through the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption website (CAIR-ME) by physicians licensed in California.
- Schools and child care facilities may only accept from parents new medical exemptions that are issued using CAIR-ME.
- A medical exemption may be issued in CAIR-ME no more than 12 months before a child first enters a grade span (grade spans are birth-preschool, TK/K-6th, and 7th-12th).

Please consult with your healthcare provider if your child currently has or will need a medical exemption and will be starting TK/Kindergarten, entering 7th grade or starting at a new school in the fall of 2021.

