



## Medical Exemptions and Immunization Compliance

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 12<sup>th</sup> grade and all students advancing to 7<sup>th</sup> grade **before** entry. These requirements also apply to students new to IUSD schools. Please refer to the link [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org) for specific immunization requirements for all grade levels.

### **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 medical exemptions that are issued through [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-6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>).
- Varicella immunization requirement for TK/K – 12 admission is two doses. Schools can no longer accept "history of chickenpox (had disease)". This is not sufficient documentation to meet the California school requirements. A titer will need to 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 TK/Kindergarten, entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade **or** new to IUSD schools.

