

Facts about the new Immunization Law, SB 277

Senate Bill 277 was recently passed by the California Legislature and signed into law by Governor Brown. This law eliminates the personal belief exemption for student vaccinations.

As of July, 1, 2016, the law requires vaccinations for all new students or students advancing to the next grade span, unless an exemption due to medical reasons or family history is obtained from a licensed physician.

A student with a personal beliefs exemption on file with the school before January 1, 2016, will still be allowed to attend class until they reach the next grade span. The three grade spans include birth to preschool, kindergarten to sixth grade (including transitional kindergarten), and seventh through twelfth grade.

Prior to a student's first admission to any private or public elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center, they must have been fully immunized for:

- Diphtheria
- Haemophilus influenza type b
- Measles
- Mumps
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Poliomyelitis
- Rubella
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chicken pox)
- Any other disease deemed appropriate by the California State Department of Public Health, taking onto consideration the recommendations of the advisory Committee of Immunization Practices of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Practices.

This law does not affect students attending home-based private school or independent study programs (without classroom-based instruction).

Students will not be admitted or have the ability to advance to the 7th grade unless they have been fully immunized according to their age.