

Immunization Update

Medical Exemption Requirements

The following provides notification of changes to immunizations, specifically **medical exemption** requirements, effective January 1, 2021.

California schools are required by law to check the immunization records for all new students enrolling in Preschool/EK/TK/Kindergarten through 12th grade, and all students advancing to 7th grade before entry into school. Children entering Preschool/EK/TK/Kindergarten or advancing to 7th grade must meet the medical exemption requirements. **For enrollment on or after January 1, 2021, the following is required for a medical exemption:**

- Medical exemptions will only be issued through the California Immunization Registry- Medical Exemption website (CAIR-ME) by physicians licensed in California.
- Schools and child care facilities will only accept new medical exemptions issued through CAIR-ME.
- A medical exemption may be issued through CAIR-ME no more than 12 months before a child first enrolls or enters an immunization checkpoint grade (Preschool/EK/TK/Kindergarten or 7th grade)

Please consult with your healthcare provider if your student currently has or will be requesting a medical exemption and will be starting Preschool/EK/TK/Kindergarten or entering 7th grade.

School entry immunization requirements information is located on our website at www.ovsd.org (Health Services Department) or www.shotsforschool.org.

If your student is entering Preschool/EK/TK/Kindergarten or 7th grade and has a **personal beliefs exemption**, your student will need to meet all current immunization requirements.

It is important to have your student vaccinated early so there will be no delay with school entry. Your child will not be admitted if the above requirements are not met. Please make sure to provide your student's vaccine record to the school to be included in his/her file. Should you have any questions, please contact your student's health care provider or Orange County Public Health at (800) 564-8448 or contact your School Health Technician or Nurse.

Additional information may be found at www.shotsforschool.org