



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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José L. Banda, Superintendent

January 5, 2016

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: New immunization requirements for 2016

Under a new state law (SB 277) effective January 1, parents may no longer cite personal beliefs to exempt their children from required vaccines for school. Most families will not be affected by the new law because their children have received all required vaccinations. Personal beliefs exemptions on file for a child already attending child care or school will remain valid until the child reaches the next immunization checkpoint at kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten or Early Kinder) or seventh grade.

If your student is enrolling in kindergarten for the 2016-17 school year and has a Personal Belief Exemption, please begin bringing your child up to date on vaccines as soon as possible. Your child must be current on all immunizations required by law before the first day of school on September 1, 2016. Start the process early as it can take six months to complete some vaccination series.

If your student is a current sixth grader and has a Personal Belief Exemption, please begin bringing your child up to date on vaccines as soon as possible. Your child must be current on all immunizations required by law before the first day of school on September 1, 2016. Start the process early as it can take six months to complete some vaccination series.

If your student is already in kindergarten through fifth grade and has a Personal Belief Exemption on file, you WILL be required to have started and be current on all immunizations required by law by the time your child reaches seventh grade. Consider starting the process early as it can take six months to complete some vaccination series.

If you choose not to immunize your child, he/she may be home schooled or enrolled in an independent study program that has NO classroom base (i.e online only).

For more information about SB 277, please see the Frequently Asked Questions available at: <http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/>. If a licensed physician determines a vaccine should not be given to your child because of medical reasons, submit a written statement from the physician for a **medical exemption** for the missing shot(s).

For more information about school immunization requirements and resources, please visit the California Department of Public Health's website at www.shotsforschool.org, or contact Sacramento County Public Health at <http://www.dhhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/PUB-Home.aspx> or the Sacramento City Unified School District Health Services Department at <http://www.scusd.edu/health-services>.

Thank you for helping us to keep our children and community healthy.

Sincerely,

José L. Banda
Superintendent

Dr. Olivia Kasirye, MD
Public Health Officer
SACRAMENTO
COUNTY