

Communicating about School Immunization Requirements



Vaccines are an important part of helping prevent the spread of serious diseases in California schools and child care facilities. Children usually have received the immunizations for their grade or age by the time they enroll. Sometimes students are overdue for immunizations and cannot enroll. Here are a few tips for communicating with parents and guardians about getting children caught up.

Inform and Support

- Post the [No Shots? No School flyer \(Spanish\)](#) at your front desk so families can see that immunizations are required by California law. Students who are overdue **cannot** attend school. (Schools may face immunization audits and possibly lose average daily attendance funds for students who are in school while overdue for immunizations.)
- Share the [Parents' Guides to Required Immunizations](#), available in multiple languages.



How to Handle Medical Exemptions

If a child cannot receive certain vaccines due to a medical reason, they need to obtain a medical exemption form issued in [CAIR-ME](#). You can check the status of medical exemptions in [CAIR-ME](#). Refer to the [Medical Exemption FAQs](#) for more information.

Ways You Can Help

Be empathetic to the family's challenges in getting all the required immunizations and offer these tips.

How to Find Immunization Records:

- Call the doctor's office(s) that gave the immunizations.
- If the doctor's office participated in a California immunization registry, the family may be able to access a [Digital Vaccine Record](#).
- School and child care staff can also help find records and see the immunization status of students by using the School and Child Care Roster Lookup (SCRL) tool. Find out more at [SCRL Facts](#).

Where to Get Vaccinated:

It's best to go to their doctor's office, where immunizations are usually free. If the student doesn't have a primary care doctor, let families know about these resources:

- [Local Health Department's immunization program](#)—some offer free/low-cost vaccine clinics.
- Vaccines for Children Program's [locator tool](#)—find a doctor who offers no-cost vaccines to families in Medi-Cal and those who are uninsured. Families can check the [Covered California website](#) to see if they qualify for Medi-Cal.
- Local [pharmacy](#)—many offer immunizations for children as young as 3 years of age. Costs may apply.

Questions?

Visit the [Shots for School website](#) for more information, and call your [Local Health Department's immunization program](#) with any concerns.