

California's Child Care Facility & School Vaccination Requirements

May is toddler immunization month. The Immunization Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) provides leadership and support to public and private sector efforts to protect the population against vaccine-preventable diseases.

California's vaccination requirements for school entry ensure high vaccination coverage that protects children and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases.

California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 120325-75 require families to provide proof of their children's immunization for school and child care entry. Additionally, HSC Section 120375 and California Code of Regulation Section 6075 require all schools and child care facilities to assess and report annually the immunization status of their enrollees.

In the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, children entering school were subject to Assembly Bill (AB) 2109 (Pan, Chapter 821, Statutes of 2012), which added requirements for exemptions to required immunizations based on personal beliefs. 2016-2017 is the first school year that entrants have been subject to Senate Bill (SB) 277 (Pan, Chapter 35, Statutes of 2015), which no longer permits students to receive personal belief exemptions (PBEs).

An assessment is conducted each fall to monitor immunization rates of children attending public and private licensed child care facilities, kindergarten and 7th grades in California.



CDPH's Immunization Branch is posting results for the annual assessment at cdph.ca.gov/programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/immunize.

Results from the 2016-2017 assessment showed that, when compared to data from the previous year, the proportion of students attending kindergarten who received all required vaccinations rose from 92.8% to 95.6%. Additionally, PBEs decreased from 2.4% to 0.6% (rates vary by county). Coordination and increased public awareness efforts by local public health departments, schools, and medical providers have helped California meet the immunization requirements for children.

California is one of several states which provide data for each school online in an effort to inform the public, strengthen immunization programs, and guide vaccination policies. Individual school vaccination data can be used to identify and address schools or areas vulnerable to the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.