



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health




KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Health Officer

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

July 2, 2015 (letter revised August 24, 2015)

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Sarah Royce, M.D., M.P.H, Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: **Senate Bill 277**

Governor Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 277 on June 30, 2015. Effective January 2016, SB 277 will:

- No longer permit immunization exemptions based on personal beliefs for children in child care and public and private schools;
 - Permit personal belief exemptions submitted before January 1, 2016 to remain valid until a pupil reaches kindergarten or 7th grade;
 - Remove immunization requirements for:
 - Students in home-based private schools
 - Students enrolled in an independent study program who do not receive classroom-based instruction
 - Access to special education and related services specified in an individualized education program
- Students in the above categories will still need to provide immunization records to their schools before entry, and schools will still need to report to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) the immunization status of all students at the existing checkpoints of child care, kindergarten and 7th grade;
- Allow medical and personal beliefs exemptions from any new immunization requirement initiated by CDPH for attendance at school or child care.

Additional information about the implementation of **SB 277** will become available by 2016.

The language of SB 277 is available at
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB277.

The Governor's signing message is available at
http://gov.ca.gov/docs/SB_277_Signing_Message.pdf.

Immunization laws currently in effect may be found at
<http://www.shotsforschool.org/immunizationlaws/>.