



Immunization Branch

New Process for Issuing Medical Exemptions for Childcare and School Immunizations in California

On January 1, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) launched the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption website (CAIR-ME, <https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions>) to request, issue, manage, and track medical exemptions from required immunizations for children in child care/preschool and school (grades K-12).

Medical exemptions for children can only be issued using the [CAIR-ME website](#). MDs and DOs licensed in California can register to use CAIR-ME at any time in order to issue a medical exemption. Instructions are available on [CAIR-ME](#) along with on-screen prompts. You can also watch a [webinar](#) and review [slides](#) on how to register and use CAIR-ME.

Please note that documents such as written letters and lab results about immunity do not suffice for school and childcare entry. Schools and child care facilities can only accept immunization records or a medical exemption for immunizations issued through CAIR-ME.

For more information about immunizations required for childcare and school entry, click [here](#). If you have questions, please email medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov.