



VFA  
California Vaccines  
for Adults

VFC  
California Vaccines  
For Children

CDPH  
Immunization  
Branch

# Medical Exemption Requirements for Child Care and School Admission

California Department of Public Health  
Immunization Branch

January 26, 2021



# Webinar Tech Tips!

- Today's webinar is being audio-broadcasted – a one way communication via your computer speaker.
- During the webinar, please submit comments/questions via the Q&A panel.

# Today's Webinar . . .

- Will be available for on-demand viewing at [ShotsForSchool.org](https://ShotsForSchool.org) next week (early February 2021). The slides will also be available at that time.
- Is intended for MDs/DO who may potentially issue medical exemptions in California. A medical exemption webinar for school staff will be conducted in the coming months.

# Webinar Topics

- Overview of new medical exemption requirements
- How to use the CAIR Medical Exemption website
- Medical exemption resources

# Medical Exemptions: What's New

Effective January 1, 2021, all new medical exemptions (MEs) must be issued through the CAIR-ME web site.

Existing MEs issued before 2021:

- Are valid for continuing and transfer students until the earliest of the following dates:
  - When the child enrolls in the next grade span (TK/K-6th grade or 7th-12th grade).
  - The expiration date specified in a temporary medical exemption.
  - Revocation of the exemption because the issuing physician has been subject to disciplinary action from the physician's licensing entity.
- Are not filed in the CAIR-ME web site

# Medical Exemptions: What's New

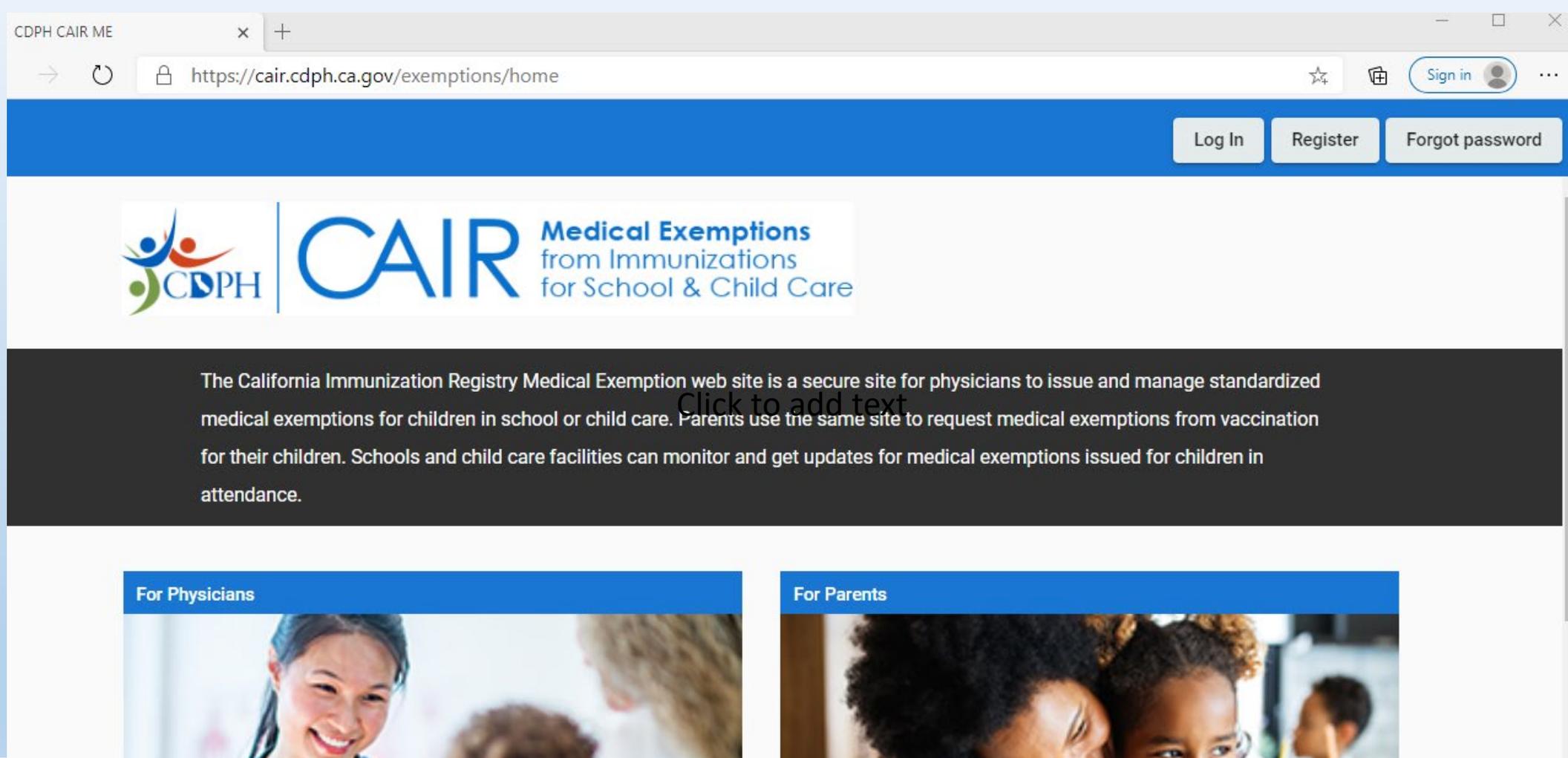
- CDPH will review exemptions in CAIR-ME when:
  - Child care facility/school sites report immunization rates <95% or do not report immunization rates
  - Physicians submit 5 or more MEs in a calendar year
  - Review is deemed necessary to protect public health
- Allows CDPH to revoke exemptions issued in CAIR-ME and parents to appeal the revocation
- Prevents physicians from submitting new MEs if they are on probation or have a pending accusation for immunization-related practices or are deemed a public health risk.

# Medical Exemptions: What's New

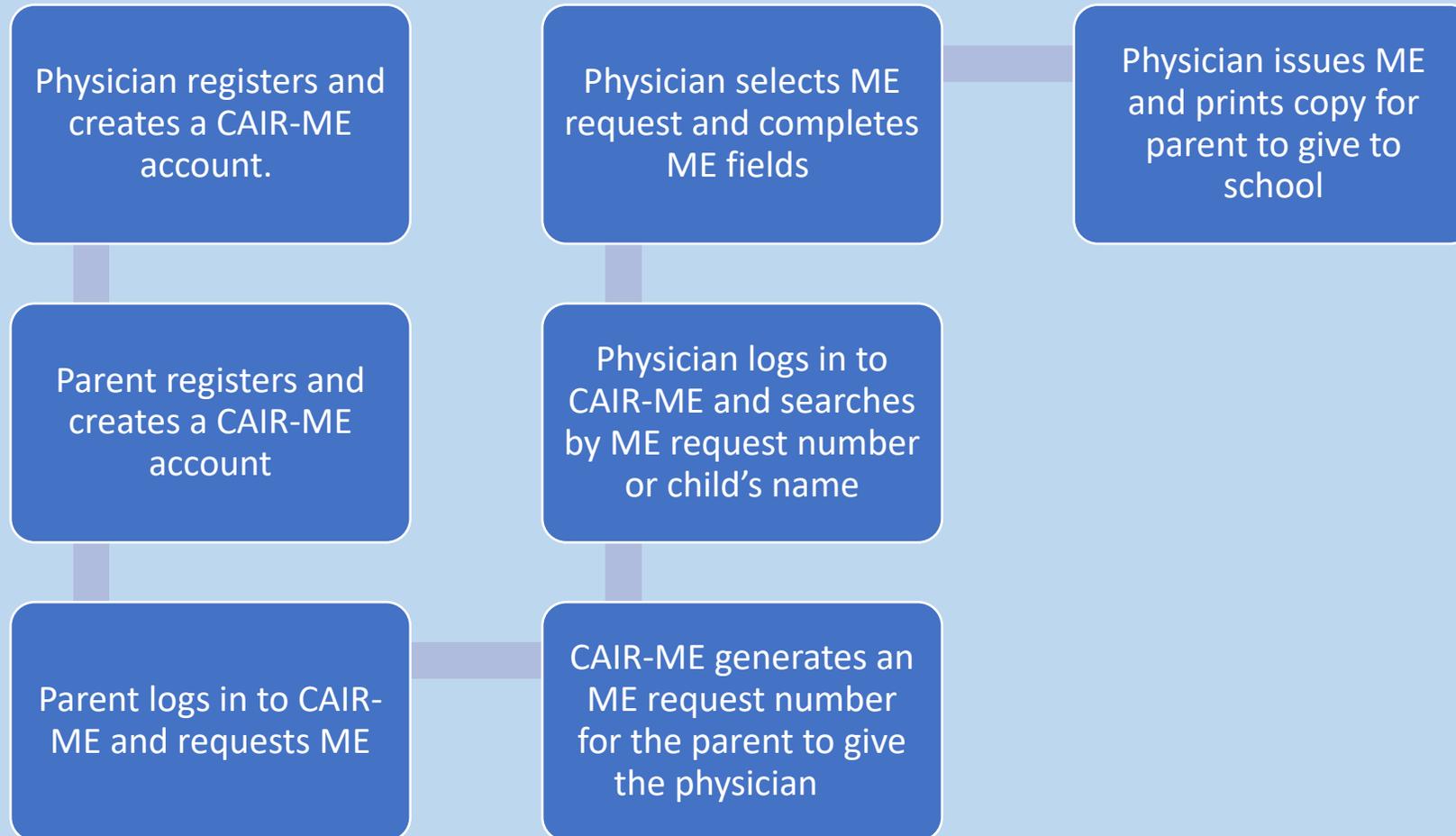
Medical exemptions should be consistent with the relevant standard of care or meet applicable criteria from:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

# CAIR-ME Website Homepage: <https://CAIR.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions>



# Overview of Process for Issuing a ME



# Registering for a CAIR-ME Account



## CREATE A PHYSICIAN CAIR-ME ACCOUNT:

**STEP 1:** Go to the CAIR-ME web site:

<https://CAIR.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions>  
and click on the “Register” button

## TIPS:

- Recommended browsers:
  - ❖ Google Chrome OR Microsoft Edge
- Enable pop-ups for CAIR-ME site

The entire registration process  
takes less than 2 minutes.





## California Immunization Registry Medical Exemption Web Site User Access Agreement

---

### CAIR Medical Exemption Web Site User Terms & Conditions

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) is a secure, computerized online information system developed to assist medical providers and other approved agencies to track and review immunization information and TB test results for individuals, assess immunization needs and remind/recall patients, avoid unnecessary or redundant immunizations, and control disease outbreaks. As part of the California Immunization Registry, the Medical Exemption (CAIR-ME) web site allows medical providers to enter medical exemptions from immunizations for school and child care and permits other approved agencies to track the status of these exemptions. Information in CAIR is only available to authorized users. Based on the access level approved, this Agreement will allow the User to access, view, add, or modify medical exemption information in CAIR-ME via the web interface.

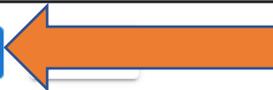
California Health and Safety Code Section 120440 limits access to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) to authorized users who require the information for the purpose of providing immunization services as specified.

As a condition of authorized access to the California Immunization Registry Medical Exemption web site, I agree:

- To comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 120440 regarding immunization registry use, as well as State and Federal laws and HIPAA regulations regarding maintaining the confidentiality of patient information.
- To access information in CAIR-ME only as needed to perform immunization/exemption-related activities for individuals presenting to my organization for services or enrollment for school/child care.
- To keep my user password confidential.
- To only use my own password to access CAIR-ME.
- To maintain the privacy and confidentiality of information in CAIR-ME.
- To ensure no misuse or wrongful disclosure of information in CAIR-ME.
- To report any activity that may compromise the protection and privacy of the information in CAIR-ME.
- To not communicate, publish, and/or otherwise provide or make public any information regarding persons enrolled in the registry and their immunization status, except:
  1. To patients who request their own immunization records,
  2. To individuals authorized by law to access immunization registry information, or
  3. When records are presented with no associated identifying information.

To assure appropriate usage of CAIR-ME, a permanent electronic record will be created that will log each User's access into any registry client record. Any unauthorized release of confidential information by a User may revoke the User's access to CAIR-ME.

I Agree to the User Access Agreement



**STEP 2: Click the "I Agree to the User Agreement" button**

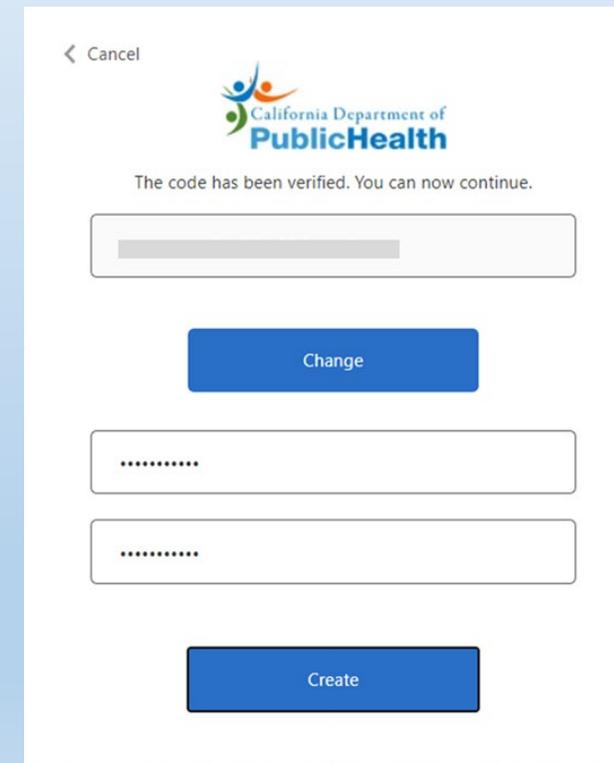
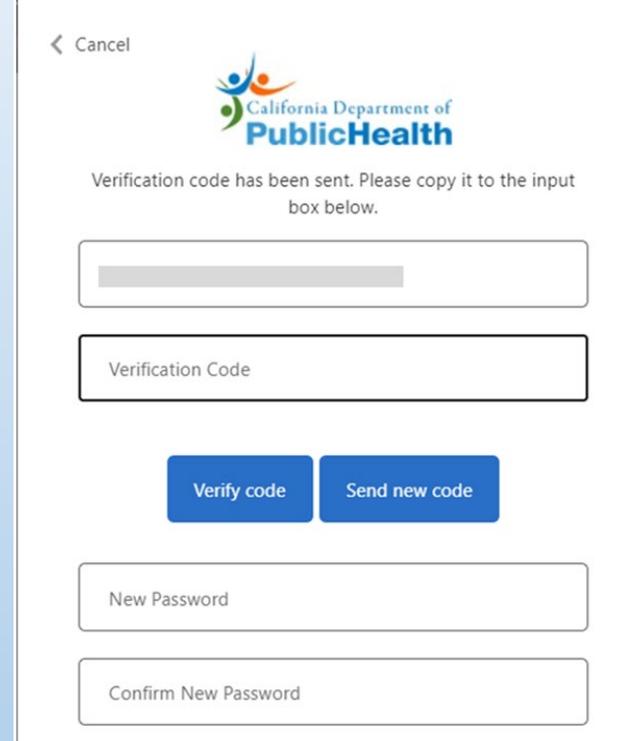
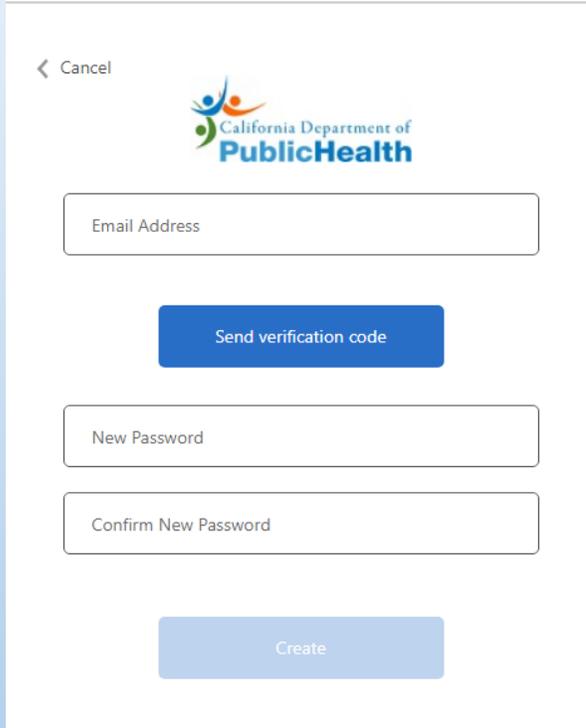


**STEP 3:** Enter your email address and click "Send verification code." Do not close the window.

**STEP 4:** Check your email. Enter the 6-digit verification code from your email and click the "Verify Code" button.

### STEP 5: Create a Password

- Must be a minimum of 8 characters
- Must contain at least 3 of the following:
  - Uppercase letter
  - Lowercase letter
  - Number
  - Symbol



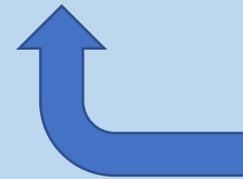
## Welcome! Select a User Role.

Your account has been created for the California Immunization Registry Medical Exemption web site. Let's set up your user profile.  
Are you registering as a parent or guardian, a physician, or a school or child care facility user?

Parent or Guardian

Physician

School or Child Care Facility



**STEP 6:** Click the "Physician" button to begin the license validation process with the California Department of Consumer Affairs

 **CAIR** Medical Exemptions  
from Immunizations for School & Child Care

## Authentication for use of CA Medical License

To authenticate the use of your CA Medical License, you will be transferred to the Medical Board of California's IDEAL validation tool. Using the IDEAL tool, you will authenticate information against your CA Medical License.

Once validated, you will return to the CAIR Medical Exemption website to complete your registration.

 Transfer to IDEAL

© 2020 - California Department of

### IDEAL

Interoperability Development Effort to Authenticate Licensees



Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon ▼

20A - Osteopathic Physician & Surgeon ▼

111111

Physician

01/01/1931

Last 4 of SSN

I'm not a robot 

 Authenticate License

### STEP 7: Authenticate your license

- Click on "Transfer to IDEAL" and fill out the required fields.
- Only enter numbers in the Medical License Field
- Click the "Authenticate License" button to complete the validation and return to CAIR-ME

## Set Up Your User Profile

The User Profile Page allows a Physician user to view their own profile and allows the Help Desk and Administrator user to view user profile details for the Physician user.

Name:

Email Address:

CA Medical License Number: 20A

Phone Number: \*

My Address: [Add Another Address](#)

Address	City	State	Zip Code	Default?	Remove
<input type="text"/>	BAKERSFIELD	CA	93311-1164	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
123 Main Street Suite 71	Sacramento	CA	95814	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### STEP 8: Update your User Profile

- Your name, license number and address are managed by the CA Department of Consumer Affairs and medical licensing board
- You may add and maintain up to 4 additional practice site addresses

Click here to hide the left menu

Click here to update your profile

The screenshot shows the CAIR Medical Exemptions dashboard. At the top, there is a blue header with the CDPH logo, the text 'CAIR Medical Exemptions from Immunizations for School & Child Care', a settings gear icon, and a 'Log Out' button. Below the header is a grey sidebar with a 'Dashboard' button. The main content area is titled 'My Dashboard' and includes a section for 'Issue a Medical Exemption' with a search bar and a 'Start Exemption' button. Below that is a 'My Medical Exemptions' section with a table of exemptions. A 'Log Out' button is also visible in the top right corner of the main content area.

Click the dashboard button to return to this page

To protect patient confidentiality, always log out when you aren't using the site

Your dashboard shows information about your MEs, including their status. Other physician users cannot see your exemptions.

## Physician's Dashboard

### Issue a Medical Exemption

Start with the medical exemption (ME) request form created by a parent/guardian. To see a list of

Search By Number or Child's Last Name \*

100434

▶ Start Exemption

100434 - CHILD, Child (04/05/2020)

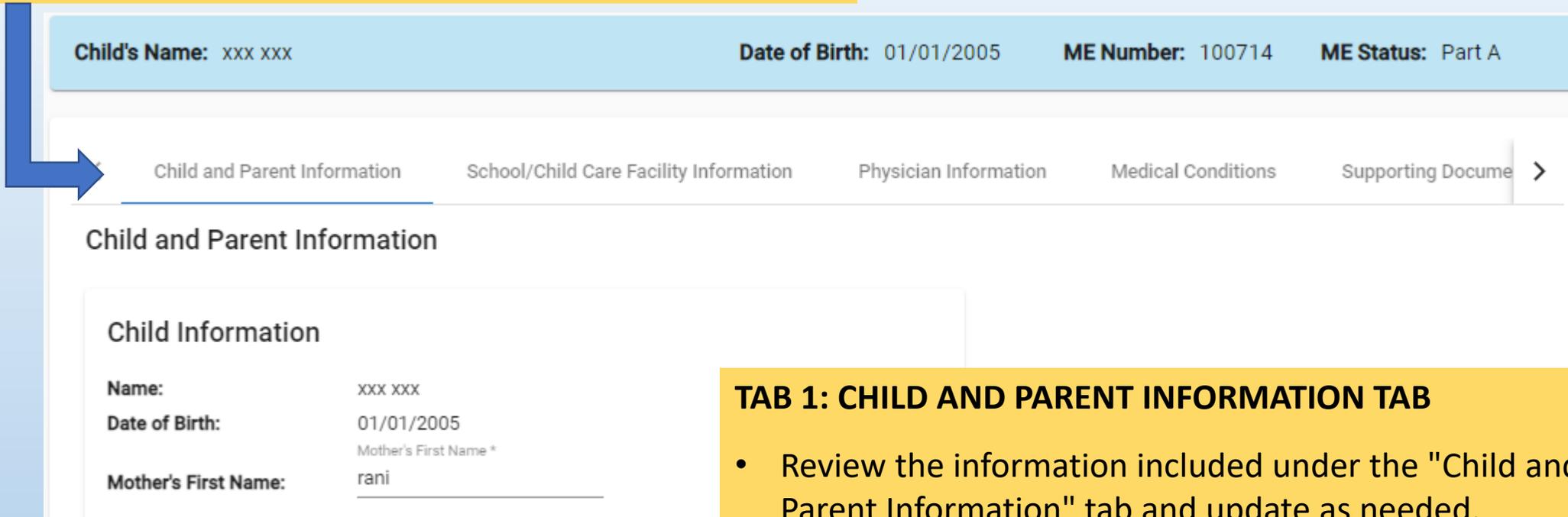
### ISSUING A MEDICAL EXEMPTION:

**Step 1:** The parent must request ME through CAIR-ME first. You can then search by the child's name or the Medical Exemption Request number provided by the parent. Once you locate the child, click the "Start Exemption" button.

**NOTE:** If the search does not bring up the child's name and ME Request Number, the parent has not submitted a request through CAIR-ME. Stop here and have the parent submit an ME request through CAIR-ME.

## STEP 2: Fill out the medical exemption fields.

There are 6 ME tabs for you to fill out and a tab for review.



Child's Name: XXX XXX      Date of Birth: 01/01/2005      ME Number: 100714      ME Status: Part A

Child and Parent Information    School/Child Care Facility Information    Physician Information    Medical Conditions    Supporting Documents >

### Child and Parent Information

**Child Information**

Name: XXX XXX

Date of Birth: 01/01/2005

Mother's First Name \* rani

### TAB 1: CHILD AND PARENT INFORMATION TAB

- Review the information included under the "Child and Parent Information" tab and update as needed.
- Click the "Save and Continue" box at the bottom of each ME tab. This will save the information you entered and automatically advance you to the next tab.

Child's Name: XXX XXX

Date of Birth: 01

< Child and Parent Information School/Child Care Facility Information Physic

### School/Child Care Facility Information

**School/Child Care Facility**

Country Club Elementary  
7534 Blue Fox Way  
San Ramon, CA 94583-3721  
(6005086)

Change

Add Another School or Child Care Facility

Grade Span \*



School/Child Care Admission Date \*



Enter admission date.



Save and Continue

## TAB 2: SCHOOL/CHILD CARE FACILITY INFORMATION TAB

- One school or child care facility must be listed on the ME. You can add an additional site by clicking the "Add Another School or Child Care Facility" button and selecting the school/facility.
- From the drop-down menu, select the child's grade span.
- Enter the actual or estimated date of admission (The ME may not be issued more than 12 months prior to admission.)
- Click the "Save and Continue" button.

Child's Name: Sandy Beach Parent1

Date of Birth: 0

Child and Parent Information

School/Child Care Facility Information

Physician Information

Medical Conc

### Physician Information

#### Issuing Physician

Address \*

1256 Skycrest Dr Apartment #6 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94595-1852

Date you started treating the patient \*

Are you the child's Primary Care Physician?  Yes  No

Save and Continue

Date you started treating the patient \*

Are you the child's Primary Care Physician?  Yes  No

#### Primary Care Physician (PCP)

Medical License Number \*

Physicians licensed by a California medical board may be found using the Department of Consumer Affairs' search website found [here](#).

PCP First Name \*

PCP Last Name \*

Address Line 1 \*

Address Line 2

City \*

State \*

Zip Code \*

Phone Number \*

Extension

PCP Email Address

Reason you are submitting this exemption form instead of the Primary Care Physician \*

Save and Continue

### TAB 3: PHYSICIAN INFORMATION TAB

- You may select any of your saved addresses.
- Enter the date you started treating the patient.
- Indicate whether you are the child's PCP. If you are not, complete the fields for the PCP.
- Click the "Save and Continue" button.



**CAIR Medical Exemptions**  
from Immunizations

Child's Name: Sandy Beach

Child and Parent Information

**Medical Conditions**

Please add all medical conditions

**Add Condition**

**Save and Continue**

© 2021 – California Department of Public Health

---

**Add a Medical Condition**

Medical Basis for Exemption \*  
Severe Immunodeficiency

Description of Condition \*  
On chemotherapy for solid tumore

Exempted Vaccines \*  
MMR, VAR/VZV

Onset Date \*  
1/19/2021

Condition is: \*  
 Permanent  
 Temporary (exemption expires within 12 months of issuance)

Exemption Expiration Date \*  
1/19/2022

**Add** **Cancel**

## TAB 4: MEDICAL CONDITIONS TAB

- Click the "Add Condition" button.
- From the drop-down menu, select from the following medical conditions:
  - Anaphylaxis
  - Encephalopathy
  - Severe Immunodeficiency
  - Other (Specify)
- Enter a brief description of the condition
- Select the exempted vaccines and record the onset date for the condition.
- Identify whether the condition is permanent or temporary. If it is temporary, identify the date when the ME expires (may not exceed 12 months)
- Click the "Add" button.
- Multiple conditions can be added by repeating the process.
- When you are done entering conditions, click the "Save and Continue" button.

Child's Name: Sandy Beach Parent1

Date of Birth: 05/15/2015

ME Number: 100661

ME Status: Draft

Child and Parent Information

School/Child Care Facility Information

Physician Information

Medical Conditions

Supporting Documents

Attest & Authorize

Review

## Upload Supporting Documentation

You may upload medical records and other documents to support the medical exemption. Supporting documents are visible to the California Department of Public Health, California Health and Human Services Agency, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California as needed for review of the medical exemption. You may upload up to 10 documents in PDF format less than 5,000 KB file size each.

Select files to upload

Browse

Upload Supporting Documents

Save and Continue

### TAB 5: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TAB

You have the option to upload supporting medical records and documents.

- Use the “Browse” button to find files on your desktop.
- The files you select will be listed on the page.
- Click the “Upload Supporting Documents” button to upload them to CAIR-ME.
- Once you finish uploading files, click the "Save and Continue" button.

## TAB 6: ATTESTATION AND AUTHORIZATION TAB

- Review these statements. By checking the boxes, you agree to all of the terms listed.
- Click the "Save and Continue" button.

# CAIR Medical Exemptions from Immunizations for School & Child Care

**Child's Name:** Sandy Beach Parent1 **Date of Birth:** 05/15/2015 ME

< Child and Parent Information School/Child Care Facility Information Physician Info

### Attest & Authorize

By checking the boxes below, you agreed to all terms listed.

#### Attestation

- I certify that the statements and information contained in this form are true, accurate, and complete.
- I have complied with, and informed the parent or guardian of, all applicable requirements of California Health and Safety Code Section 120372.
- I have conducted a physical examination and evaluation of the child consistent with the relevant standard of care.
- I have not charged for this form or for a physical examination related to the renewal of a temporary medical exemption.

#### Authorization

- I authorize the California Department of Public Health to contact me for the purposes of California Health and Safety Code Section 120372 and for the release of records related to the medical exemption to CDPH, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California.

**Save and Continue**

Child's Name: Sandy Beach Parent1

Date of Birth: 05/15/2015

ME Number: 100661

ME Status: Draft

< Care Facility Information

Physician Information

Medical Conditions

Supporting Documents

Attest & Authorize

Review

>

850 Emory  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 229-8454  
LaurieMERreview+parent1@gmail.com

School Information

Not Complete



School/Child Care Facility: Shasta Lake  
4620 Vallecito St.  
Shasta Lake, CA 96019-9348  
(110221)

Grade Span:

Admission Date:

Physician Information

Not Complete



Issuing Physician: TIMOTHY UYEKI  
CA License Number: A 50491  
Phone Number: (209) 364-4505

## TAB 7: REVIEW TAB

- The Review tab shows you all information you have entered. It will indicate if any tabs are incomplete.
- All required fields in each tab must be entered before a tab is complete and you can issue the ME.
- Click on the pencil symbol to return to a tab.

### Medical Condition Information

**Medical Basis for Exemption:** Severe Immunodeficiency  
**Description Of Condition:** On chemotherapy for solid tumore  
**Patient Medically Exempt for:** MMR, VAR/VZV  
**Onset Date:** 01/19/2021  
**Exemption Expiration Date:** Temporary, expiring 1/19/2022

### Supporting Documents

### Attestation and Authorization

- ✓ Attestation Complete
- ✓ Authorization Complete

**Issue Medical Exemption**

## STEP 2: Issue the Medical Exemption

- Once all tabs are completed, click the "Issue Medical Exemption" button at the bottom of the Review tab



**CAIR**

Medical Exemptions  
from Immunizations  
for School & Child Care

## Issued Medical Exemption Confirmation

Medical Exemption number **100661** has been issued.

Please print the Medical Exemption and provide it to the child's parent/guardian to file with the school or child care facility.

[Print Issued Medical Exemption](#)

[Return to Dashboard](#)

### Step 3: Print the Medical Exemption

- Click the “Print Issued Medical Exemption” button.
- The ME has two pages—provide both pages to the parent.
- Advise the parent to make copies of the ME for their records and to provide to school and child care facilities. If the parents lose the ME, they will need to obtain a copy from you, the issuing physician.

# Need Help?

## Assistance with Medical Exemptions:

[Medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov)

## IT issues with the web site:

[Medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov)

CAIR-ME Help Desk: (844) 699-4225

# Medical Exemption FAQs

**How do I document a history of chickenpox for school admission?**

For school admission, a child with a “history of chickenpox” will need an exemption issued through CAIR-ME. Written documentation on the yellow card, blue card, CAIR records, or a note is not sufficient.

# Medical Exemption FAQs

**I have a patient that needs a medical exemption, and the parents do not have an email address. How do the parents start the process of requesting a medical exemption?**

**Option 1:** Parents can go online and obtain an email address. They can then create a CAIR-ME account and request the medical exemption.

**Option 2:** During the visit, you can log in to CAIR-ME, fill out the parents' section and confirm they agree to the authorizations on the Child & Parent Information tab. If you use this option, the parents will not be able to add an email address later, cannot check the ME status in CAIR-ME, and can only receive ME status updates via (postal) mail.

# Medical Exemption FAQs

**How early may a physician issue a medical exemption in CAIR-ME before a child first enters a grade span starting in 2021?**

A medical exemption may be issued in CAIR-ME no more than 12 months before a child first enters a grade span (grade spans are birth-preschool, TK/K-6<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade).

# Medical Exemption FAQs

**Can I print a copy of the Medical Exemption form and complete it by hand?**

No. The medical exemption form can only be completed, issued, and printed from CAIR-ME. Only the issuing physician can print a medical exemption.

# Medical Exemption FAQs

## **Can I use my CAIR2 login to access CAIR-ME?**

No. Access to CAIR-ME requires a separate login. Medical exemptions issued in CAIR-ME are not visible in CAIR2 at this time. Notes entered in CAIR2 on a patient record, such as history of chickenpox, are not a valid medical exemption.

# Medical Exemption Resources

- Shots for School web site: <https://www.shotsforschool.org/>
- ACIP Contraindications and Precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>
- AAP Immunization Resources Best Practices: [https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunizations\\_nvac\\_standard\\_5and6.pdf](https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunizations_nvac_standard_5and6.pdf)
- AAP Red Book: <https://redbook.solutions.aap.org/>
- CDC Pink Book: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html>
- Immunization Action Coalition: <https://www.immunize.org/askexperts/>

# Questions and Answers

# Thank You for Protecting Californians!

