



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

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

To: Superintendents and Principals of Schools Serving 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Graders  
cc: School Nurses and School Staff

Re: Senate Bill 277 and School Immunization Law, Recommended Actions

With the passing of SB 277, no new personal beliefs exemption (PBE) forms may be filed effective January 1, 2016 for students attending a public or private school in California. The impact of SB 277 on your school will depend on how many of your students have a PBE. Most families will not be affected by the new law because their children have received all required vaccinations.

PBEs filed **before** January 1, 2016 are no longer valid when the student enters the next grade span, such as 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Therefore, we urge you to immediately inform parents of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with PBEs that in order to begin 7<sup>th</sup> grade, their children will need to meet requirements for both 7<sup>th</sup> grade and for children 7-17 years old listed at [www.shotsforschool.org/k-12/](http://www.shotsforschool.org/k-12/) and summarized below. A child may be admitted conditionally if the child is not due for any doses at the time of admission.

**Immunization entry requirements for 6<sup>th</sup> grade PBE students advancing/entering into 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

- 1 dose of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine\*
- 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine<sup>†</sup>
- 3 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP) vaccine, including a **Tdap** booster at 7 years of age or older<sup>‡</sup>
- 4 doses of Polio vaccine (3 doses OK if one dose was given at 2 years of age or older)

\* Two doses required if student is age 13 years or older at 7<sup>th</sup> grade advancement.

<sup>†</sup> Both doses given on or after 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Only one dose of mumps but two doses of measles vaccines are required if given separately.

<sup>‡</sup> These doses may include Td, DTP, or DT; however at least one dose must be Tdap or DTaP/DTP given on or after 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The template notification letter (see attached Word document) is available to help you inform parents of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with a PBE of the immunization requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry. A parents' guide to immunizations is also available at <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-222School.pdf> or [http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-222S\\_School.pdf](http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-222S_School.pdf) (Spanish).

Additional resources for schools and parents are available on the Shots for School website at <http://www.shotsforschool.org/>. For information regarding immunization and health checkup requirements, please contact your county office of education or [local health department](#).

Sincerely,

Sarah Royce, MD, MPH  
Chief, Immunization Branch  
California Department of Public Health

