



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health Division

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HEALTH ADVISORY

Personal Belief Exemptions (PBEs) and AB 2109

December 17, 2013

To: Healthcare Providers and Credentialed School Nurses

From: Karen Smith, MD, MPH

Public Health Officer

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Current situation

Starting January 1, 2014, a new California law (AB 2109) takes effect that modifies the process for obtaining a personal belief exemption for school required immunizations. The new form to be used is attached.

Actions requested for all healthcare providers and credentialed nurses

- If and when you sign the form, you are attesting that you have counseled the parent or guardian regarding the risks and benefits of the specific immunizations and also the health risks to the student and to the *community* of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required in California. This is particularly important for children who attend schools in Napa County that have a high rate of PBEs.
- A good place to start is www.shotsforschools.org which has a link to the form, the legislation, FAQs and an extensive resource list.

Helpful resources:

For Healthcare Providers:

- The CDC webpage, *Provider Resources for Vaccine Conversations with Parents*, includes fact sheets for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs), many of which are translated into Spanish (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/index.html). Also, you can sign up to get email updates when materials become available or are updated.



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- For a quick reference guide to California required immunizations, ages, and number of doses required for school, please see: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-231.pdf>
- For useful discussion points regarding commonly held fears and requests for alternative vaccine schedules, see: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-988.pdf>
- Excellent information on individual vaccines and vaccine ingredients can be found in “The Vaccines” section of the Immunize for Good website from Colorado (<http://www.immunizeforgood.com/immunize-colorado>). The “Fact or Fiction” section addresses similar topics as the Helping Parents Separate Fact from Fear document such as natural immunity, delayed schedules, and the “too many too soon” concern but in greater depth.

For Parents:

- A six page handout, *Clear Answers and Smart Advice About Your Baby’s Shots* (by Dr. Ari Brown), is available at <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2068.pdf> and addresses many common concerns including autism, vaccine preservatives and adjuvants
- For a handout that reminds parents of the risk to the community if they choose not to vaccinate and the need to make healthcare personnel aware that their child is not vaccinated if they become sick, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/downloads/not-vacc-risks-bw-office.pdf>
- For FAQs and answers including good Internet sources of information on immunizations, see the American Academy of Pediatric webpage: <http://www2.aap.org/immunization/families/faq.html>
- Stories of Vaccine-Preventable Illnesses can be powerful. The ShotbyShot story gallery (<http://shotbyshot.org/story-gallery/>) has many different short videos available and is organized by illness type. If you plan to use these videos (e.g., in your waiting room or on your website), please note that there is a permission request form on the website under “Use A Story.”

Napa County Public Health Division thanks you for your thoughtful and considered implementation of AB 2109 and for your efforts to protect the school children and the people in the community.

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