CAHAN Health Advisory
New School Immunization Requirements

Date

Effective July 1, 2019, changes in the school immunization law include:

Requiring 2 (previously 1) doses of chickenpox (varicella) vaccine at
  o Kindergarten entry
  o 7th grade advancement
  o K-12 admission or transfer

Requiring 2 Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR) doses and 3 Hepatitis B vaccine doses at admission or transfer more uniformly throughout K-12.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF DOSES REQUIRED OF EACH IMMUNIZATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-12 Admission</td>
<td>4 Polio 5 DTap 3 Hep B 2 MMR 2 Varicella</td>
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<tr>
<td>(7th-12th)</td>
<td>1 Tdap</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Grade Advancement</td>
<td>1 Tdap</td>
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Medical Exemptions

Effective July 1, 2019, medical exemptions must be signed by a California-licensed MD or DO and include:

  o The specific nature of the physical condition or medical circumstance of the child for which the licensed physician does not recommend immunization.
  o Each specific required vaccine that is being exempted.
  o Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary.
  o If the exemption is temporary, an expiration date no more than 12 calendar months from the date of signing.

CDPH has not issued a standardized medical exemption form.
Prepare your Practice

Act now to ensure your patients are protected and are ready for school entry next fall by taking the following steps:

- Give other recommended immunizations: Tdap, meningococcal conjugate, HPV, influenza, and any catch-up doses of MMR and hepatitis B.
- Make reminder and recall phone calls and send notices to patients who have not yet received two doses of chickenpox vaccine, or who are missing other required vaccines.
- Provide your patients clear and accurate documentation of varicella immunization. If you use the California Immunization Registry, consider printing out a copy of the ‘Blue Card’ after chickenpox vaccine has been given for the student to take to school.
- Post electronic banners on your practice’s website to help notify your patients.
- Never miss an opportunity to immunize your patients, including sports physicals and visits for mild illness or injury.

Prepare your Vaccine Supply

Consider the following as you prepare your clinic’s upcoming vaccine request:

- Order enough varicella vaccine, and other adolescent catch-up vaccines to immunize your age-eligible patients.
- Place your order with enough time to allow VFC to review and approve your order, for vaccines to ship.
- Varicella vaccines usually take up to 15 business days to arrive once your order is approved. Urgent or rushed orders cannot be done for this product.
- Before ordering vaccines, ensure you have adequate storage for your orders.

Resources

- Guide to Immunizations Required for School Entry (IMM-231)
- Vaccine Catch-Up for School Kids Age 7+ (IMM-1265)
- California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4
- Automated Phone Script (Provider to Patients)

Visit ShotsForSchool.org for more information and resources on school entry requirements.