



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

August 12, 2016

Santa Cruz County Licensed Physicians,

As you may be aware, the laws have changed in regards to immunization exemptions for school entrance. SB 277 has eliminated the personal belief exemption (PBE). A medical exemption is the only way in which immunizations can be waived in California schools and child care centers at this time. Please refer to an excerpt of SB 277 below, that addresses accepted medical exemptions.

SEC. 5 120370. (a) If the parent or guardian files with the governing authority a written statement by a licensed physician to the effect that the physical condition of the child is such, or medical circumstances relating to the child are such, that immunization is not considered safe, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances, including, but not limited to, family medical history, for which the physician does not recommend immunization, that child shall be exempt from the requirements of Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 120325, but excluding Section 120380) and Sections 120400, 120405, 120410, and 120415 to the extent indicated by the physician's statement.

For the entire senate bill please follow the link:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB277

This fall all entering kindergartners and seventh graders that previously had a PBE will need to have their immunizations complete or in the process of being completed. The Public Health Division wants to support physicians to appropriately vaccinate students and child care attendees in Santa Cruz County. If you have any questions regarding immunizations, please call the Immunization Coordinator at (831) 454-4645. Thank you for the great work you do taking care of the children of Santa Cruz County!

Sincerely,

Arnold Leff, MD
Health Officer



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Santa Cruz County