

Catching Up Patients Whose Immunization Personal Beliefs Exemptions Will Expire in 2016 or 2017

Under a recent California law, [SB 277](#):

- Vaccines required for school and child care may no longer be excused due to personal beliefs, including religious beliefs.
- Personal beliefs exemptions that were filed in past years for children in
 - child care remain valid until kindergarten or transitional kindergarten (TK).
 - grades K (including TK) through 6th grade remain valid until 7th grade.

Once personal beliefs exemptions (PBEs) expire at these checkpoints, students need to fulfill all [immunization requirements for their age/grade](#) to continue into the next grade span. **Plan ahead now to catch up children whose PBEs will expire in 2016 or 2017.**

In order for a child with a prior PBE to start 7th grade, parents will need to document before the first day of school that their child has received:

- 1 dose of chickenpox vaccine*
- 2 doses of MMR vaccine†
- 3 doses of DTaP, Tdap or Td, with at least 1 dose of Tdap at 7 years of age or older‡
- 4 doses of polio vaccine (3 doses if the last dose was given on or after the second birthday)§

If there is not enough time to administer all required doses prior to the start of the school year, please continue to follow the [CDC catch-up schedules and minimum intervals](#). The student should be able to [attend school without any special physician documentation](#) (just the standard immunization record for school) if:

- You are following the CDC minimum intervals for catch-up.
- No doses are currently due at the start of school; the next doses first become due after the start of school according to a conditional admission schedule that schools must follow.
- You continue to complete the catch-up on schedule during the school year.

By starting the catch-up well in advance of 7th grade or kindergarten/TK, in many cases all missing doses can be given before the school year begins.

For additional information, please visit www.ShotsForSchool.org.

Thank you again for keeping patients, schools, and communities safe and healthy.

* Two doses required if student is age 13 years or older at 7th grade advancement with expiring PBE or new admission at age 13-17 years.

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

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

§ CDC recommends that the 4th dose of polio vaccine is given on or after the 4th birthday, but this is not required for school entry.