



## Vax Facts April 22, 2021

# School and Childcare Immunizations and Filing Medical Exemptions

### Key Messages

- Childhood immunization rates have fallen substantially in California during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving many children at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps, pertussis, chickenpox, and associated complications.
- As schools and childcare facilities re-open, clinicians are asked to contact families of children who have fallen behind on their immunization schedule to provide needed immunizations. See links to updated ACIP schedules for 2021 on page 2 of this communication.
- All immunization-related medical exemptions for children enrolled at California K-12 schools and childcare agencies must now be filed electronically via the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) California Immunization Registry at the [CAIR-ME](#) website.
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap, or Td) requirements are often misinterpreted. Please see below for dose requirements.

### New Medical Exemptions Process for 2021

- As of January 1, 2021, medical exemptions can only be issued through the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption website ([CAIR-ME](#)) by physicians licensed in California. [CAIR-ME Physician Webinar](#) | [Slides](#)
- If providers decide not to immunize a patient because they have a history of disease (often the case with varicella) they are still required to fill out a medical exemption.
- If providers decide not to immunize a patient because they drew titers which show immunity, they are still required to fill out a medical exemption. Sending the titer results to the school does not comply with the state law.

### Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap, or Td) Requirement to be Admitted at TK/K-12

- 5 doses are required. 4 doses OK if one was given on or after 4th birthday.
- 3 doses OK if one was given on or after 7th birthday. For 7th-12th graders, at least 1 dose of pertussis-containing vaccine is required on or after 7th birthday.
- See [Shots for School](#) website for more information

### Resources

- CAIR ME Website: <https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions>
- Shots for School Website: <https://www.shotsforschool.org/>
- SFUSD Health Requirements Homepage: <https://www.sfusd.edu/services/health-wellness/health-requirements>
- [CDC catch-up schedule](#) for children who are behind on routine immunizations



## Updated CDC 2021 Recommended Immunization Schedules for Children and Adults

CDC 2021 Recommended Immunization Schedules have been updated and are available online. The links below point to the schedules for healthcare professionals and for the general public. Please print and post these schedules in your clinic and forward this communication to your immunization staff.

### **For Healthcare Professionals:**

- CDC [2021 Child and Adolescent Schedule](#) and [2/12/2021 MMWR](#) summarizing changes
- CDC [2021 Adult Schedule](#) and [2/12/2021 MMWR](#) summarizing changes

### **Parent-Friendly and Adult-Friendly Formats (English, Spanish):**

- [2021 Recommended Immunizations, Birth – 6 Years](#)
- [2021 Recommended Immunizations, 7 – 18 Years](#)
- [2021 Adult Immunization Assessment Tool](#)

### **Additional Resources**

- EZIZ [schedules and recommendations](#) and [2021 Childhood Immunization Timing Poster](#)
- California Immunization Coalition [Don't Wait Vaccinate Campaign Toolkit](#)

### **Vaccine Storage and Handling Resources**

- [CDC Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit](#)
- EZIZ [General Vaccine Management](#) and [COVID-19 Vaccine Management](#) Resources

### **Program Contact Information:**

Communicable Disease Prevention Unit  
Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Population Health Division  
San Francisco Department of Public Health  
Tel: (415) 554 – 2955 / Fax: (415) 554 – 2579  
Email: [immunization@sfdph.org](mailto:immunization@sfdph.org) / Website: <https://www.sfdcp.org/>

Are you interested in receiving our health advisories, alerts, updates, and vax facts directly by email? Sign up today by visiting <https://www.sfdcp.org/health-alerts-emergencies/health-alerts/register-for-health-alerts/>.