

# Immunizations: Personal Beliefs Exemption

AB 2109 Effective January 1, 2014

## **New Law Requirements**

### **1. Starting in 2014, what are the legal requirements for personal beliefs exemptions (PBE) to immunizations required for school or child care?**

Effective January 1, 2014, parents who want to exempt their child from one or more required immunizations because of their personal beliefs must provide to the school or child care facility:

- A one-page [form](#) developed by the California Department of Public Health, which must be used and contains the following requirements:
  - An affidavit or letter requesting an exemption that states that the required immunization(s) are contrary to their beliefs, and
  - A statement signed and dated by a health care practitioner and parent indicating that the practitioner has provided, and the parent has received, information about the benefits and risks of immunizations and the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Most children with exemptions have received some of their required vaccines. In addition to the vaccines for which an exemption is being requested, parents must show the school or child care facility a valid record of which of the immunizations required for school or child care that their child has received. This will help schools know right away which students have and haven't been immunized when a vaccine-preventable disease may be spreading at school.

### **2. Who may sign the personal beliefs exemption form or other personal beliefs exemption documentation?**

The following types of health care practitioners are authorized by law to sign personal beliefs exemption documentation if they are licensed or credentialed in California:

- Medical Doctor (MD)
- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- Nurse practitioner (NP) authorized to furnish drugs
- Physician assistant (PA) authorized to administer or provide medication
- Naturopathic doctor authorized to furnish or order drugs under a physician and surgeon's supervision
- Credentialed school nurse (a *Preliminary* or *Clear* credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing).

The parent, legal guardian, or emancipated minor must also sign the documentation required to obtain a personal beliefs exemption.

### **3. Who are affected by the new requirements?**

- All students newly admitted to a California school (kindergarten through 12th grade [K-12]), students advancing to 7th grade. These requirements also apply to newly-admitted international students, exchange students and military dependents.
- Children at a child care facility who are either:
  - Newly admitted or
  - Previously enrolled and subject to new immunization requirements, because they have grown older.
- All public and private schools and child care facilities, including charter schools and alternative school settings.

### **4. When did the new law take effect?**

January 1, 2014.

### **5. Where can I review the new law?**

[AB 2109 \(Pan\), Chapter 821, Statutes of 2012, amending Health & Safety Code, Section 120365.](#)

## **Documentation Requirements**

### **6. Where can I find the new PBE form?**

The one-page [form](#) is available at <http://www.shotsforschool.org/> and from many schools and health care practitioners.

### **7. A parent requesting a personal beliefs exemption from an immunization required for a student submits a completed official exemption form along with the student's immunization record to the student's school district. Is additional documentation required?**

No. A properly completed form and the immunization record are usually sufficient to meet legal requirements.

**8. Does the “Personal Beliefs Exemption to Required Immunization” (CDPH 8262) form require notarization?**

No, the form does not need to be notarized.

**9. Are child care and school staff required to verify the credentials of an authorized health care provider or the family’s religious affiliation in the case of a religious exemption (e.g., name of church or clergy person)?**

No.

**10. May a school or child care facility decline to accept a completed PBE form signed by a certain category of authorized health care practitioner?**

No, a school or child care facility must accept a properly completed form.

**11. Are children who do not provide documentation of either receipt or exemption to a required immunization for which they are due subject to exclusion from school or child care until the requirement is met?**

Yes.