

Questions and Answers

1. **With the influx of hybrid online/in person programs, how should school nurses approach immunization requirements for students in these programs?**

Response: Currently, home-based private schools and independent study programs in which students do not receive classroom-based instruction are the only alternative schooling programs that do not require students to meet the immunization requirements. No distinction is made in immunization law between hybrid online programs and typical classroom-based instruction.

Please see FAQs below.

[Requirement FAQs \(ca.gov\)](#)

2. **What are the requirements for students entering a home-based private school or independent study program and do not receive classroom-based instruction?**

Response: Students entering:

- A home-based private school or
- An independent study program and do not receive classroom-based instruction [pursuant to Article 5.5 (commencing with [Section 51745](#)) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 of the Education Code]

are not subject to immunization requirements. Additional information about classroom-based instruction is available in FAQ 18 at [Independent Study Frequently Asked Questions \(CA Dept of Education\)](#). Schools are still required to request, maintain, and report records of immunizations that have been received for these students.

3. **What are the differences between distance learning, independent study, and a home-based private school?**

Response: Please see Information from the California Department of

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Education on the differences between:

- [Distance learning](#)
- [Independent study](#)
- [Home-based private school](#) and other home schooling

4. **Are we required to ask the parents to get the vaccine in 8th for Hep B if they never got it in Kindergarten or 7th grade?**

Response: 3 doses of Hep B are required for admission to any grade except 7th. If a student is considered a new admission at 8th grade (or later), then the student will need to complete the Hep B series.

- If a student has been considered an admission at any point since July 1, 2019, then all the K-12 admission requirements apply (except Hep B at 7th grade).
- However, if a continuing student met the requirements in place when they started school before July 1, 2019, and has not been considered an admission since then, it's possible a student may still be ok with 1 dose of varicella, < 3 doses of Hep B, 1 dose of measles, or 1 dose of mumps. At this point, these students might be in grades 4-6 or 11-12.

5. **When do we have to submit school reports?**

Response: Reports will be due January 31, 2023.

6. **Do students have to receive a new medical exemption if the provider on record's license expires?**

Response: Typically not. If a student has a medical exemption dated before 2020 and the provider is disciplined for any reason by the Medical Boards, then the exemption is no longer valid. MEs issued in CAIR-ME expire at the earliest of:

- When the child enrolls in the next grade span (TK/K-6th grade, 7th-12th grade)
- The expiration date specified in a temporary medical exemption
- Permanent revocation of the exemption.

7. **McKinney Vento Act – What is the school’s responsibility to track/follow up to get immunization records from the families of students experiencing homelessness?**

Response: Students experiencing homelessness can enroll in school immediately even without documents typically required for enrollment including immunization records. Once a homeless student is enrolled, school staff should work with the school where the student was transferred from to obtain the student’s immunization records quickly. The school staff (e.g., homeless liaison) should also work with their local health department to ensure these students receive any vaccinations they need. The law still requires that the school obtain the student’s immunization record and ensure that these students meet all immunization requirements.

8. **How do school users make updates in CAIR— is this used for school to make updates? What happens if we get students from other schools or countries, and they don’t have a record in CAIR?**

Response: Immunization information cannot be updated in CAIR by a school user. Schools can use CAIR to update a child permanent record—school immunization records could be updated using the information found on CAIR, CAIR itself cannot be updated. To get a students’ record updated in CAIR, direct students to return to the administering provider to get their immunizations updated in CAIR. For more information on the functionality of CAIR for schools, see the [School User Guide](#).

9. **What prompts an Audit?**

Response: In school year 2021-2022, the annual financial and compliance audits of public schools will include an immunization component for schools with kindergarten or 7th grade that:

- Did not submit immunization assessment reports or
- Had conditional admission and overdue rates above 10% reported in the fall. [Reporting Audit \(ca.gov\)](#)

10. **Where is a list of disciplined doctors?**

Response: Released on June 21, 2022 and revised on August 19, 2022 is the [Pre-2020 Medical exemptions to required immunizations letter](#). Included in this letter is the list of disciplined physicians.

Another option is to search the Department of Consumer Affairs for Disciplined physicians. To search to see if a physician has been disciplined, visit the [DCA website](#).

11. **Are all schools required to have printed blue cards or electronic?**

Response: According to the California Immunization Handbook, schools, school districts, and pre-kindergarten facilities may computerize their immunization record-keeping systems. CDPH recommends a back-up electronic or manual copy of all records in case the original is inadvertently destroyed or lost. See page 23 of the [California Immunization Handbook](#) for more information.

12. **What should a school do when a student with an IEP is found to not have all required immunizations?**

Response: Students with an IEP should continue to receive all necessary services identified in their IEP regardless of their vaccination status, however parents or guardians must continue to provide immunization records for these students to their schools, and schools must continue to maintain and report records of immunizations that have been received for these students. [PBEFAQs.pdf \(eziz.org\)](#)

13. **Do titers count as proof of vaccination?**

Response: Documentation of a Titer alone will not suffice. A CAIR-ME exemption will need to be issued if a physician determines that the Titer is sufficient to show immunity (following ACIP recommendations).

Response from CDPH:

1. Does the child's MD decide when titers can be substituted?

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Response: Yes; however, the child's doctor should follow ACIP recommendations when determining if a child should be vaccinated or exempted from a vaccine. The doctor would need to upload supporting documentation, such as titer results, before issuing the exemption in CAIR-ME.

2. Does the child need an ME if titers are used as proof of vaccination?

Response: Yes, a medical exemption issued through CAIR-ME is needed. Titer results alone are not sufficient documentation for a school to accept for admission.