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September 30, 2019

RE: Immunization Requirements

On September 9, 2019, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bills 276 and 714 which makes changes to immunization requirements for all K-12 students in California public schools. The new law requires more specific documentation to support medical exemptions, limits the duration of medical exemptions, and allows state health officials to determine if an exemption should be revoked. Notably, the new law provides the following:

**Effective January 1, 2020:**

- A child who has submitted a medical exemption before January 1, 2020, may continue to enroll in school until the child enrolls in the next “grade span.” Grade spans are defined as follows:
  - Birth to Preschool
  - Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten to Sixth Grade
  - Seventh to Twelfth Grade
- When a child completes one grade span and seeks to enroll in the next, parents must submit a new medical exemption.
- The California Department of Public Health will create a monitoring system that includes review of schools whose overall immunization rates are less than 95 percent; schools that do not provide annual reports of vaccination rates; and physicians who submit more than five medical exemptions in one year, starting January 1, 2020.

**Effective January 1, 2021:**

- Schools may no longer accept any type of written statement from a licensed physician. Instead, physicians must complete a standardized exemption form that contains specified information, and they must submit those forms electronically, both to the school and also the California Immunization Registry. Unless a standardized medical exemption form is on file, schools may not admit students who are not fully immunized on the basis of a medical exemption.
- Exemptions based on temporary medical conditions will continue to be valid for only one year. Exemptions based on permanent medical conditions will be valid for only one grade span. When a child with a permanent medical condition completes one grade span and seeks to enroll in the next, physicians must complete a new exemption form.

Students who do not have proof of immunizations will not be allowed to attend school until the immunization requirement is met.



**California Montessori Project**

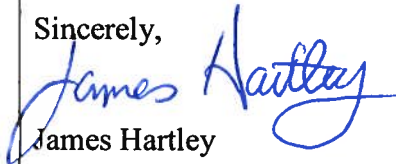
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Brett Barley

If you have specific questions about the required immunizations and your child's needs, please consult with your medical provider. If you have additional questions regarding the new law, please visit the California Department of Public Health website at <http://www.shotsforschool.org>

Sincerely,



James Hartley  
Director of Operations  
California Montessori Project