



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## SCHOOL HEALTH NOTIFICATION

**Date:** April 23, 2021

**Contact:** Christine Gaiger, PHN, Communicable Disease Program Manager  
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### Some Medical Exemptions for School Immunizations Not Valid for Fall 2021

Pursuant to California law, medical exemptions are not valid if they were issued prior to January 1, 2020 by any physician who has had disciplinary action taken by the Medical Board of California or Osteopathic Medical Board of California. (Health & Safety Code, §120372(d)(4)).

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is aware of numerous medical exemptions issued to students in our county from a local physician who has had such disciplinary action and, consequently, those exemptions will no longer be valid for the Fall 2021-22 school year.

**Important action to take before the school year ends:** Review all current medical exemptions to determine if the following two conditions apply: 1) the medical exemption was issued before January 1, 2020, and 2) the physician who issued the medical exemption has had a disciplinary action taken in any year by the Medical Board of California or Osteopathic Medical Board of California.

To find out if a physician has been disciplined, you can look up an issuing physician's name or medical license number on [the list of disciplined physicians](#).

If an exemption meets both conditions, notify the child's parents as soon as possible to let them know that the exemption will no longer be valid for use at schools starting at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Children whose medical exemptions are no longer valid for the reasons above must provide updated documentation to their school or child care facility prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year for schools, or September 1, 2021 for child care facilities. [Acceptable documentation](#) includes record of receiving required immunizations or a medical exemption issued through the [California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption web site](#).

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### Public Health Department

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[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)

If parents think their child's medical exemption does not meet both conditions, they can appeal using [the instructions and appeal form](#).

Note that 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.

More information is available at <https://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/exemptions/>, including the [January 2021 Immunization Handbook](#) for Schools and Child Care Facilities.

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#### **Example communication to families with exemptions that are no longer valid:**

Your child's medical exemption from required immunizations is not valid for admission to school beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Before your child can be admitted to school in the fall, the school must receive your child's immunization records for required vaccines, or a new medical exemption issued through the [California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption web site](#).

Pursuant to California law, medical exemptions are revoked if they were issued prior to January 1, 2020 by any physician who has had disciplinary action taken by the Medical Board of California or Osteopathic Medical Board of California. (Health & Safety Code, §120372(d)(4)). In this instance, revocation does not depend upon the medical condition. These exemptions will no longer be valid for use at schools starting the 2021-2022 school year.

**Next step:** Contact your child's physician.

- If your child does not need a medical exemption, your child's physician can help your child catch up on needed vaccines. (For more information, visit <https://www.shotsforschool.org>.)
- If your child still needs a medical exemption, go to the California Immunization Registry - Medical Exemption web site at <https://cair.cdph.ca.gov/exemptions/hometo> to request a medical exemption.
- To appeal this decision: If you believe the physician who issued the exemption prior to 2020 has not had disciplinary action taken by the Medical Board of California or Osteopathic Medical Board of California, you may appeal the decision within 30 days of notification of the revocation with the California Health and Human Services Agency. To start the appeal process, fill out [an appeal form](#) and give it to your child's school or child care facility who will complete and submit the form.