

# Parents of Children In or Entering School or Child Care

**REFERENCE**

Health and Safety Code, Division 105, Part 2, Chapter 1, Sections 120325-120380; California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 8, Sections 6000-6075

**WHY YOUR CHILD NEEDS SHOTS**

The California School Immunization Law requires that children be up-to-date on their immunizations (shots) to attend school or child care. Diseases like chickenpox, measles, and whooping cough spread quickly, so children need to be protected before they enter. Most children need booster shots before starting kindergarten. 7th grade entry requirements went into effect July 1, 1999. A varicella (chickenpox) requirement for kindergarten entry and child care attendance went into effect July 1, 2001.

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED AT REGISTRATION**

You will need your child's Immunization Record. It must show the date your child was given each required shot. If you do not have an Immunization Record or your child has not received all required shots, call your doctor or local health department now for an appointment.

**THESE ARE THE SHOTS THAT ARE REQUIRED**

Review your child's Immunization Record to make sure you have a date for each shot required.

Vaccine	NUMBER OF IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED TO ENTER, BY AGE OF CHILD							
	Child Care					School		
	2-3 months	4-5 months	6-14 months	15-17 months	18+ months	4-6 years	7-17 years	7th grade
Polio (OPV/IPV)	1	2	2	3	3	4 <sup>a</sup>	4 <sup>b</sup>	
DTP/DTaP	1	2	3	3	4	5 <sup>a</sup>	3 <sup>b</sup>	
Td Booster								[1 <sup>c</sup> ]
MMR				1 <sup>d</sup>	1 <sup>d</sup>	2 <sup>e</sup>	1 <sup>e</sup>	2 <sup>e</sup>
Hepatitis B	1	2	2	2	3	3		3 <sup>f</sup>
Hib	1	2	2	1 <sup>d</sup>	1 <sup>d</sup>			
Varicella					1 <sup>g</sup>	1 <sup>g</sup>	1-2 <sup>h</sup>	

<sup>a</sup> This number includes kindergarten boosters. If your child is 4-6 years old, entry requirements are met with only 3 polio and 4 DTPs if at least one polio and one DTP dose were after your child's fourth birthday.

<sup>b</sup> For children 7-17 years old, entry requirements are met with only 3 polio and 3 DTP or DT/Td if at least one polio and DTP or DT/Td were after your child's 2nd birthday. For students age 7 years and older, pertussis immunization is not required.

<sup>c</sup> A Td booster is recommended but not required.

<sup>d</sup> One dose must be on or after the 1st birthday regardless of any doses received earlier. The Hib requirement applies only to child care children under age 4 years and 6 months.

<sup>e</sup> One dose on or after the first birthday is required for grades 1-6 and 8-12. Mumps immunization is not required for students age 7 years and older.

<sup>f</sup> Two doses of the 2-dose hepatitis B vaccine formulation along with provider documentation that the 2-dose hepatitis B vaccine formulation was used for both doses and both doses were received at age 11-15 years will also fulfill this requirement.

<sup>g</sup> If your child had chickenpox disease, ask your doctor to note it on the immunization record to meet the requirement.

<sup>h</sup> Required for children not enrolled in California schools before July 1, 2001. 1 dose required for grades K-12. For children 13-17 years old, 2 doses are needed if vaccine received after 13th birthday.

If your child's record is missing some doses, please contact your doctor or clinic now to obtain the full immunization record or any doses needed. If your child recently received immunizations and needs an immunization later in the year, he/she can be allowed to attend, provided you get the remaining doses when they become due.

Your child may be exempted from some or all immunizations by a doctor because of a medical condition. Your child may be exempted by you because of your personal or religious beliefs. Ask your school or child care provider for details.