



940 C Street, Novato CA 94949 • Phone (415) 883-4254 • Fax (415) 883-1859  
Nikki Tausch Lloyd, Director

October 20, 2015

Dear Novato Charter School Parents,

We want to bring to your attention recent legislation that amended California's vaccination requirements for public and private schools. SB 277 was signed into law over the summer and goes into effect on January 1, 2016 - for the end of the personal belief exemption - and July 1, 2016 for school enrollment immunization requirements.

Here are the main points of the new law:

- A. Eliminates the personal belief exemption (including the religious exemption) for current state required vaccinations for public and private school students.
  - Medical exemptions are still allowed.
  - If the CDPH decides to add other vaccination requirements, parents will be allowed to obtain personal belief exemptions for those new vaccinations.
- B. Establishes three grade spans: (1) Birth to preschool; (2) Kindergarten to Grade 6; and (3) Grade 7 to Grade 12. Entry into any of the grade spans is considered a checkpoint. Personal belief exemptions are no longer valid when a student reaches the next checkpoint (in our school's case mainly when students enter Kindergarten or 7<sup>th</sup> Grade).
  - Students who reach a checkpoint may not be enrolled or allowed to attend any public or private school unless they meet the CDPH Immunization Requirements for their age.
- C. Allows personal belief exemptions already on file with a school in California prior to December 31, 2015 to remain valid until a student reaches the next checkpoint (i.e. grade span).
  - The personal belief exemption also remains valid if the student transfers to another school prior to reaching one of the checkpoints.
- D. Requires that students who transfer in from out-of-state (to any grade) meet the CDPH Immunization Requirements.

Detailed below is additional updated information pertaining to the new law and how it may impact your children and our school. In all cases please confer with your doctor about vaccinations. We are working to update our admissions policies and some policy related information below is subject to change pending further guidance from CDPH, the California Department of Education, and legal counsel. The consequences to the school of not complying with the law are steep, up to and including the potential loss of our Charter.

- 1) For the next school year beginning in August 2016, students who are (a) entering Kindergarten for the first time or (b) entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (current 6<sup>th</sup> graders) will be required to meet the CDPH Immunization Requirements for their age.

- 2) Student's entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year who have a personal belief exemption form on file with the school will **not** have to meet the CDPH requirements. Their personal belief exemptions will be valid through high school graduation.
- 3) Full details of the CDPH Immunization Requirements can be found at: [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org)
- 4) The following list of required immunizations is taken from their website:
  - a. Incoming Kindergarten students require the following immunizations (13 - 15 [total doses](#))
    - Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, or DT) - 5 doses (4 doses OK if one was given on or after 4th birthday)
    - Polio (OPV or IPV) - 4 doses (3 doses OK if one was given on or after 4th birthday)
    - Hepatitis B - 3 doses
    - Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) - 2 doses
    - Varicella (Chickenpox) - 1 dose
  - b. Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students require the following immunizations (11 -13 total doses)
    - Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, DT, Tdap, or Td)- 3 doses (4 doses required if last one was given before 2nd birthday)
    - Polio (OPV or IPV)-4 doses (3 doses OK if one was given on or after 2nd birthday)
    - Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) - 2 doses
    - Varicella (chickenpox) – 2 doses
    - Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) booster - 1 dose
- 5) If your child is not **fully** immunized prior to being enrolled in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade or Kindergarten, the current regulations allow for what is referred to as "conditional admission." What this basically requires is that:
  - Your child receive at least the first dose of all required vaccines prior to admission;
  - Your child not be currently due for any doses at the time of admission; and
  - Your child complete all the remaining doses when they become due in accordance with the official "Conditional Admission Immunization Schedule".

Please note that if a student is “conditionally admitted” and does not receive the remaining doses when due, the law states that the student may not attend school. If, after 45 days, the student has still not received the remaining doses the student will be dis-enrolled from the school and the student will need to re-apply after they have received the remaining doses. If there is a waiting list for the class, the next student on the waiting list will be offered admission to the class.

To provide you an idea of the time schedule for each immunization, our office has put together a graphic of the *Conditional Immunization Schedule* for Kindergarten and Grade 7 based on information provided on the CDPH's <http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/> website.

**KG Conditional Immunization Schedule (No Prior Immunizations - Maximum Interval)**

	Tot Req	Dose #	Month																	Interval from Last Dose			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		18	19	
Polio	3	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd			x																		< 10 wks
		3rd															x						< 12 mos.
DTP	4	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd			x																		< 8 wks
		3rd					x																< 8 wks
		4th																	x				< 12 mos.
MMR	2	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd				x																	< 3 mos.
Hep B	3	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd			x																		< 2 mos.
		3rd									x												< 6 mos.
C Pox (Var)	1	1st	x																			Before Admit	

**Grade 7 Conditional Immunization Schedule (No Prior Immunizations - Maximum Interval)**

	Tot Req	Dose #	Month																	Interval from Last Dose			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		18	19	
Polio	3	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd			x																		< 10 wks
		3rd															x						< 12 mos.
DTP	3	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd			x																		< 8 wks
		3rd															x						< 12 mos.
Tdap (-a)	1	1st	x																				
MMR	2	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd				x																	< 3 mos.
Hep B (-b)																							
C Pox (Var)	2	1st	x																			Before Admit	
		2nd				x																	< 3 mos.

(-a) Tdap booster is required before entry to Gr7

(-b) Hep B is not required for advance to Gr7

- 6) If you believe your child is eligible for a medical exemption please consult with your doctor. The following was reported by Jane Meredith Adams in EdSource (updated 9/22/15):

*Students may obtain a written medical exemption to vaccinations from a licensed physician medical doctor (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) There is no standard medical exemption form but the statement must say:*

- *That the physical condition or medical circumstances of the child, which may include family medical history, are such, that the required immunization(s) is not indicated*
- *Which vaccines are being exempted*
- *Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary*
- *The expiration date, if the exemption is temporary.*

- 7) If your child does not meet the CDPH Immunization Requirements and cannot obtain a Medical Exemption, the only educational option available is a home-school or independent study program **without classroom instruction.**

Marin County Office of Education in partnership with Marin County Health and Human Services will be offering workshops that will review immunization requirements. The first date is November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 12pm or 1pm to 3 pm (see attached flyer for additional dates/times) at Marin County Office of Education.

If you have any other concerns, please contact your health care provider.

Best wishes,

Nikki