OAK GROVE SCHOOL
The Art of Living and Learning

Oak Grove School

2025-26 Current Immunization Requirements

As a California private school, Oak Grove School must abide by state immunization laws as they apply to school-aged children. In 2016, Senate Bill 277 was signed into law, requiring California school children to be fully vaccinated. SB 277 eliminates religious and personal beliefs exemptions for vaccinations. The bill applies to children enrolled in public or private daycares and preschools, public school districts, and private schools. Only students in a home-based private school and students enrolled in an independent study program who do not receive classroom-based instruction are exempt. The law took effect January 1, 2016, and its provisions were implemented beginning July 1, 2016. In 2019 and 2020, California immunization law (under SB 277, 276, and 714) was amended to include increased vaccine requirements and new criteria for issuing medical exemptions, with changes going into effect July 1, 2019, January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021.

In accordance with these laws, Oak Grove School cannot unconditionally admit any student unless immunization requirements have been fulfilled or unless one of the following applies: (1) a student has a valid personal beliefs exemption (PBE) that was submitted prior to January 1, 2016, and therefore may continue attending school until they enroll in the next grade span *(kindergarten or 7th grade)*; (2) a student has a valid medical exemption issued through the California Immunization Registry for Medical Exemptions (CAIR-ME).

California state law also requires public and private schools to maintain current immunization documentation for all enrolled students. Documentation that fulfills state requirements are: (1) a current immunization record of all vaccines received from birth to the present; (2) a catch-up vaccine schedule that meets all criteria for conditional admission status; and/or (3) a valid medical exemption. Oak Grove School is obliged to share this information with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) when asked to do so.

The following sections are intended to answer your questions regarding state immunization law and requirements, medical exemptions, and personal beliefs exemptions. They include links to the most official, up-to-date information provided by the State of California. Further questions may be sent via email to registrar@oakgroveschool.org.

FAQ's: Immunization Law and Requirements

1. **Where can I review SB 277?** The language of Senate Bill 277 is available at: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB277

2. **Where can I review SB 276?** The language of Senate Bill 276 is available at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB276

3. **Where can I review SB 714?** The language of Senate Bill 714 is available at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB714

4. **Where can I review 2019 changes to California vaccine requirements?** Information on changes to vaccine requirements is available at: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/laws-2019changes.aspx

5. **What is a grade span?** Grade spans are defined as: (a) birth through preschool; (b) kindergarten through grade 6; and (c) grades 7 through 12.

6. **Which vaccines are required for school entry in California?** Depending on the student's age, vaccines are required for diseases including Haemophilus Influenzae Type B *(Hib),* Diphtheria, Pertussis *(whooping cough),* Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella *(chickenpox)*.

    a. For daycare and preschool requirements, see https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/childcare-immunizations.aspx
    b. For K-12 and 7th grade entry requirements, see https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/tk-12-immunizations.a

7. **Is my child required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?** Currently, the COVID-19 vaccine is recommended but not required for school entry. Oak Grove School is staying informed of state immunization mandates as they apply to school-aged children, and will notify parents if the COVID-19 vaccine becomes a requirement for school entry. Read the most recent statement from CDPH regarding the COVID-19 vaccine here: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR22-073.aspx#msdynttrid=ofNMtkjLTY_2pQeBGXxedy_KgmrQUgIsPO8eX4gA5EU

8. **My child has not received all required doses in the Varicella vaccine series, but has had chickenpox. Do they need the vaccine in order to attend school?** A student who has had chicken pox may only attend school without completing the Varicella vaccine series if their doctor provides a valid medical exemption from the vaccine issued through CAIR-ME.

9. **Do homeopathic vaccines fulfill SB 277 immunization requirements?** No. According to SB 277 and the California Health and Safety Code, vaccines are "subject to the condition that the immunization be performed in accordance with the regulations of the department." In addition, SB 277 refers to the "immunizing agents that may be utilized," as specified by the Department of Health and Human Services. Immunizing agents that are utilized need to have been approved by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Hence, homeopathic vaccinations do not qualify as immunizing agents.

10. **What is conditional admission status?** Conditional admission status applies when a student has commenced receiving doses in all vaccine series required for their age or grade and is not currently due for subsequent doses at the start of school. In very limited circumstances, children who have not completed all required vaccine series may attend preschool or grades K-12 while they catch up on remaining doses. To maintain conditional admission status, California state law requires the following:

    a. The student must receive at least one dose in each required vaccine series before the first day of school.
    b. Oak Grove School has a current immunization record on file for the student that includes all doses received from birth to the present.
    c. Oak Grove has a catch-up schedule on file approved by a California-licensed MD or DO that indicates when each remaining dose will be received during the school year.
    d. If applicable, Oak Grove School has on file a temporary medical exemption issued through CAIR-ME that includes exempted vaccines, reason for delay, and expiration date of exemption.

11. **My child's catch-up schedule has been delayed due to missed appointments. What happens now?** State law requires that Oak Grove has a current catch-up schedule on file for students with conditional admissions status. If vaccine appointments are delayed and the catch-up plan is no longer valid, a new catch-up schedule from the student's doctor is required.

For more information on conditional admission, see https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/School/laws-conditional.aspx

FAQ's: Medical Exemptions

1. **What were the main changes to the medical exemption process that came into effect under SB 276 and SB 714?** Effective January 1, 2021, all new medical exemptions *(ME's)* for school and child care entry must be issued through CAIR-ME. Medical exemptions can only be issued by MDs or DOs licensed in California and must meet criteria

established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Medical exemptions issued in 2021 and beyond may only be accepted by schools and child care facilities if issued through CAIR-ME. For information on requesting a medical exemption, go to https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/IMM-1466.pdf

2. **Are medical exemptions issued before 2021 still valid?** A medical exemption issued before 2021 remains valid until or unless:

   a. a student enters the next grade span at kindergarten or 7th grade
   b. a temporary medical exemption expires
   c. the medical exemption is revoked because the issuing physician has been subject to disciplinary action from their licensing entity *(does not apply to ME's issued between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020)*

3. **What are the criteria for a valid medical exemption issued before 2021?** Medical exemptions issued prior to 2021 may only be accepted if they include the following:

   a. the specific nature of the physical condition or medical circumstance of the child for which a licensed physician does not recommend immunization
   b. specific vaccines that are exempted
   c. whether the medical exemption is temporary or permanent
   d. if the exemption is temporary, an expiration date no more than 12 calendar months from the date of signing
   e. the signature and/or stamp of the issuing physician *(must be California-licensed MD or DO)*

4. **Are medical exemptions considered valid when provided by other practitioners besides a licensed physician?** No, California only recognizes a medical exemption as valid when provided by a licensed MD or DO.

5. **Information regarding revoked medical exemptions:** Effective June 1, 2021, medical exemptions will be revoked if the following two conditions apply:

   a. the medical exemption was issued before January 1, 2020, and
   b. the physician who issued the medical exemption has had a disciplinary action taken against them in any year by the Medical Board of California or Osteopathic Medical Board of California

Per CDPH guidelines, these criteria do not apply to medical exemptions issued between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020. MEs issued in 2020 must abide by criteria listed in question #3 above to be valid.

To find out if a physician has been disciplined, search for their name or medical license number on the list of disciplined physicians here: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/DisciplinedDoctorsList.pdf ,

or go to the Department of Consumer Affairs license search website here: https://search.dca.ca.gov/ .

For information on the appeals process for revoked medical exemptions, go to https://www.chhs.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Appeal-Policy-and-Procedures-Document-for-Website-March-2023-Final.pdf

FAQ's: Personal Beliefs Exemptions

1. **Are personal beliefs exemptions issued in California during or after 2016 still valid?** No. As of January 1, 2016, personal beliefs exemptions *(PBEs)* cannot be applied to vaccines currently required for preschool and K-12 enrollment by the state of California.

2. **Are personal beliefs exemptions issued in California before 2016 still valid?** PBEs issued before January 1, 2016, will remain valid until the student enters their next grade span at kindergarten *(if issued in preschool)* or 7th grade *(if issued in grades K-6).* PBEs issued in grades 8-12 will remain valid through grade 12.

3. **Is a personal beliefs exemption from another state or country valid if a student transfers to a California school?** No, PBEs are only valid and accepted if issued by a licensed California physician.

4. **What happens when a child with a valid personal beliefs exemption enters their next grade span at kindergarten or 7th grade?** A student's PBE is no longer valid when they enter a new grade span. They must therefore either (1) receive all vaccines required for their grade level, or (2) provide a valid medical exemption issued by their physician through CAIR-ME.

5. **Does my child's existing personal beliefs exemption apply to new vaccines or additional doses required for school entry?** A student's existing valid PBE applies to any new immunization requirements initiated by the California Department of Public Health until they enter their next grade span. At that time, they must either (1) receive all vaccines required for their grade level, including new or additional doses, or (2) provide a valid medical exemption issued by their physician through CAIR-ME.