

Dear Parents,

On June 30, 2015, SB277 was signed in to law. SB277 changes exemption status from immunization requirements for children in Child Care and grades K-12. ***This new law applies to all ECC students.***

SB277 takes effect on January 1, 2016.

What are some of the requirements and changes?

Starting January 1, 2016, parents or guardians of students in any school or child-care facility, whether public or private, will no longer be allowed to submit a personal beliefs exemption to a currently required vaccine.

Medical exemptions do and will continue to exist under the new law, such as medical circumstances including student or family medical history in which the student's physician does not recommend immunization.

SB277 does allow current students, who, prior to January 1, 2016, have documentation, known as a Personal Beliefs Exemption (PBE) form, on file stating beliefs opposed to immunization, to be enrolled within the state until the student enrolls in the next defined grade span (ie Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten).

PBEs filed in 2015 are only valid when signed by both an authorized health care provider and a parent/guardian no more than 6 months prior to first entry into a new school or childcare or a new grade span. Therefore, PBEs filed in 2015 are invalid for children first entering childcare or school in California in the Fall of 2016.

In the next few months, to prepare for meeting this new requirement, we will be providing additional information including any updates or additions made to current ECC policies.

What you can do now

- **Be Informed:** Educate yourself regarding SB277, current immunization recommendations and the recent changes to immunization requirements. Additional information can be found through the links and attachments provided below as well as through other resources.
- **Take part:** Locate and review your child's Immunization Records to ensure that immunizations are up-to-date, and that ECC has the current immunization record on file. In 2016, we will be reviewing each child's immunization records and will contact parents if additional information or updated documentation is needed based on current requirements. Please note that state regulations allow no more than 10 days to present a record of immunization after a parent has been notified that a child is lacking one or more immunizations. After 10 school days, the child must be excluded from further attendance if he or she has not come into compliance with the

requirements. Parents will still be responsible for paying their child's full tuition if they are required to be excluded from further attendance until they are compliant with their immunizations.

- **Ask Questions:** If you have additional questions regarding immunizations, contact your child's Physician.
- **Submit Documentation (Optional):** As noted above, exemptions based on personal beliefs will no longer be accepted after December 31, 2015. If you will be filing a Personal Beliefs Exemption Form (PBE), please note that you will need to submit a properly completed 'Personal Beliefs Exemption to Required Immunizations Form' (CDPH 8262) that meets all requirements to ECC on or before December 31, 2015. If filed before January 1, 2016, a PBE will remain valid until your child first enters the span between transitional kindergarten through 6th grade. Please note that CDPH 8262 should be used instead of the Personal Beliefs Affidavit on page 2 of the 'California School Immunization Record' (Form 286, also known as the 'Blue Card').

The following links are provided to find out more about SB277 and these changes:

SB277:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_i

SB277 FAQ:

<http://eziz.org/assets/docs/shotsforschool/SB277FAQ.pdf>

PBE:

http://eziz.org/assets/docs/shotsforschool/SB277_Letter-2016_Effective_Date_070215_final.pdf

<http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/faqspe/#AB2109-12>

The following attachments are also provided to find out more about immunization schedules, requirements and the Vaccines For Children Program (VFC).

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this email, please feel free to contact Kristy Knight at (909) 624-2916 or krislizicc@hotmail.com

Sincerely,
The Early Childhood Center Board

I have read and understand the new Immunization Policy that will go into effect on January 1, 2016. I also understand that if my child does not have a signed PBE in their file by December 31, 2015, they will be required to adhere to the new immunization requirements.

Child's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____