

Understanding California's State-Mandated School Vaccine Requirements

Sierra Unified School District recognizes that families in our community have diverse perspectives on vaccines. While we respect every family's right to make informed decisions about their child's health, it is important to clarify that California law mandates certain vaccines for students attending public and private schools. These requirements are set by the state, not by the district, and schools are legally required to enforce them to ensure compliance. Below please find details about required vaccinations.

State-Mandated Vaccines for School Attendance

Under **California Health and Safety Code Section 120325-120380**, the following vaccinations are required for students to attend school in California:

For Kindergarten & Elementary Students:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, Tdap, or Td) – 5 doses
- Polio (OPV or IPV) – 4 doses
- Hepatitis B – 3 doses
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) – 2 doses
- Varicella (Chickenpox) – 2 doses

For 7th-12th Grade Students:

- All K-12 Doses
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap booster) – 1 dose (required at 7th grade)
- Varicella (Chickenpox) – 2 doses

Medical Exemptions & State Restrictions

California no longer allows personal or religious belief exemptions for school-required vaccines. However, medical exemptions may be granted by a licensed physician and must be submitted through the state's CAIR-ME system. Sierra Unified School District does not have the authority to alter or waive these requirements, as they are enforced by state law. Families with questions about exemptions should speak with their healthcare provider or visit the **California Department of Public Health's Immunization Branch** for more details.

We understand that vaccine mandates are a sensitive issue for many in our community. Our goal is to provide clear information so families can plan accordingly and avoid any disruption to their child's education. If your child is not up to date on required vaccines, we encourage you to contact your doctor to confirm what vaccines are required for your student or visit our upcoming vaccine clinic to ensure your student is up-to-date on required immunizations before the school year begins.

For more details on state vaccine requirements, visit: www.shotsforschool.org



SIERRA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT