

A Boon to Community Immunity!

In what seemed to be record time, CA legislators and Governor Brown approved and signed into law [SB277](#), which does away with the philosophical and religious exemptions to immunizations for child care centers, nursery schools, family day care homes, and all public and private schools (elementary and secondary). Effective July 1, 2016, students entering CA schools or child care centers who are past due or unimmunized will only be allowed to enter school if they have a medical reason to not be immunized. The only option for families who are religiously or philosophically opposed to immunizations will be homeschooling (to which the law does not apply). With this new law, California joins only two other states, Mississippi and West Virginia, that do not allow any non-medical exemptions to the vaccines required for school.

Gov. Brown acknowledged the controversy that surrounded the bill and stated in his [signing message](#) that “the science is clear that vaccines dramatically protect children against a number of infectious and dangerous diseases. While it is true that no medical intervention is without risk, the evidence shows that immunization powerfully benefits and protects the community.” There will likely be legal challenges around this bill, but for now it’s a win for public health in California!

Back to School Clinics

Speaking of school....the start of the 2015-16 year is right around the corner. It’s important for all providers to be accommodating and flexible so any children who are behind on immunizations can get up-to-date before school starts. For those students who don’t have regular providers, we have some [back-to-school clinic options](#). And [ShotsforSchool.org](#) is the go-to resource for all things related to immunizations for schools and child care settings. Please check it out. If you have any questions, call us at 510-267-3230.

Big Changes for Public Schools and Immunization Reporting

The State Controllers’ Office recently announced that, to promote compliance with immunization requirements, beginning in 2015-16, public schools that do not submit immunization assessment reports, or that have conditional admission rates above 25% will have their immunization documentation audited as part of their annual financial and compliance audit. There were 27 public elementary schools in Alameda County last year who had conditional entrant rates of 25% or higher, and there were 15 who did not submit reports. That will make for lots of audits in Alameda County unless rates improve this year!

Please be sure to submit your Kindergarten immunization reports by October 15 and your Grade 7 immunization reports by November 1, 2015 at [ShotsforSchool.org](#). Follow the “No Shots, No Records, No School” rule and if you have conditional entrants, ensure that they are accurately reported and have proper follow-up procedures in place. Additional information is available at [ShotsforSchool.org](#).

Immunization Skills Institutes for Medical Assistants

IPAC debuted a new free training program in June that entailed comprehensive immunization information and was geared specifically toward Medical Assistants. The 3-hour training program included didactic presentations, video, and hands-on, small-group skill stations. In two days, we trained close to 80 Medical Assistants from provider offices serving infants through geriatric patients. It was a judgment-free learning zone offering complete information about vaccine administration, handling, storage and registry use. The debut was so successful that we have decided to make it a quarterly activity, with the next sessions happening in [September](#) and [December](#). If you are interested in helping with these training sessions, or in being a trainer, we can likely easily accommodate your needs. They are a lot of fun so **please let us know if you are interested** by calling (510) 267-3230. Thanks!

Immunization Newsletter from State Immunization Branch

Check out the [July 2015 Immunization Update](#) from CA Dept of Public Health too – it’s chock full of relevant information for all of us.

**Alameda County Influenza Summit
September 24th**

Mark your calendars -- **September 24, from 8:00am – 11:00am** will be the annual Influenza Summit in San Leandro. Dr. Dean Blumberg from UC Davis School of Medicine is our confirmed plenary speaker and we will post more details as they are finalized and the event flyer at [ACPHD.org](#).

**UPCOMING IPAC
MEETINGS****No IPAC Meeting on August 12**

The Steering Committee recently determined that attendance for an August meeting was looking rather slim, so we decided to cancel that meeting and meet in November instead. But we all also agreed that waiting until November to talk was too long, so this electronic update will keep you just as motivated as you were when we last saw you!

**Steering Committee Meeting on
October 21**

9am – 10:30am

**General Membership Meeting
on November 10**

2-4pm

1100 San Leandro Blvd.

Redwood Room

San Leandro

- Agenda will include effective communication strategies in a vaccine hesitant environment – Guest Speaker!
- Findings from IPAC Skills Assessment
- Flu Program and how we’re doing