



Aug 25, 2016

Dear JKCP families,

I am writing this in regards to new immunization laws in California. I know our VP Tracy Hong has informed you about the new law SB277 and each child's immunization requirements- families have been working with her to meet this new law. I emailed you in late spring and spoke at the orientation about the new requirements for vaccination of staff and possible required vaccination of volunteers.

I believe the catalyst for these new immunization laws was the outbreak of measles in California when an infected individual visited Disneyland Theme Park in December 2014 and exposed thousands of visitors. The disease has since spread and cases have been confirmed throughout the state as well as 7 other states and Mexico and Canada. Also in February a BART passenger with measles travelled from Millbrae to San Francisco exposing 1500 riders. According to California Department of Health approximately 25% of those infected by measles in recent outbreaks have been children who are 4 year old or younger. The California Department of Public Health reports that there were 11,114 cases of whooping cough and 3 infant deaths in 2014.

The first Law is SB277 (effective 7/1/2016), which eliminated the personal exemption option for children's vaccinations. There is still a medical exemption option, which requires a MD, Doctors signature specifying which vaccinations should be withheld and whether it is a permanent or temporary exemption. Also there is a grandfather clause for personal exceptions filed before 12/31/2015, which will continue until the child enters TK or Kindergarten.

The second Law SB 792 (goes into effect 9/1/2016). This law is the first such law in the country and it's intent is to protect young children by requiring all teachers and other staff be immunized per the CDC recommendations for Whooping Cough (included in the Diphtheria, Tetanus,, Pertussis -"DTaP" shot) one dose of MMR for Measles and Flu. Our staff will be immunized by September 1st-. While I want to be safe; I personally wasn't thrilled about this new law.

SB792 was amended before it passed to also include any volunteers who are caring for young children in a school setting as well. As Co-op parents you fall into this category. It is a law but licensing has

still not written regulations or provided any forms for this new law. Our analyst confirmed with me this week that licensing will be enforcing SB792. So we are required to ask for proof of vaccination of our volunteers even though there is no licensing documentation. I was waiting to ask you for documentation until forms were available from licensing to save you an extra trip to Doctor and I thought there would be explanation of the new law in new regulations. Also there were some legal challenges that I thought might delay enforcement.

Please be aware that John Knox Co-op, as a state licensed school, must comply fully with these laws

The analyst asked me to attend a public health seminar. Mrs. Richards and I attended one earlier this week and they said that volunteers just need to provide a copy of proof of immunization. No other forms. Also the immunization does not need to be recent. A copy of your medical record will suffice. Many mothers are given the DTaP (which includes whooping cough) when they are pregnant- so hopefully that makes this easier for most of you. If you don't have proof of MMR vaccination, but you know you had it you can have a blood test (a titer test) and then have the DR write that there is no need for immunization on the copy you give us. The flu shot is also included in SB792 - I am also attaching a declination statement you can submit to decline the flu shot if you would like. They mentioned that you can get a medical exemption signed by a MD Doctor that identifies if you are permanently exempt or temporally exempt. Also Public Health mentioned that there will be grace period- as the SB792 goes into effect next week I was glad to hear that. We appreciate you getting us this paperwork as soon as possible.

Once again I am sorry to have to ask you to comply with SB792 but it is out of our hands- I had thought because licensing had not written any regulations, they might make exceptions or delay the implementation. But we learned this week- it is the Law and it will be enforced. For more information you can go to ShotsforSchool.org. Local pharmacies may give vaccines and there are free clinics offered by Alameda County- refer to acphd.org/clinic.

Please put your paperwork into the sun box and I will keep a check off list to be sure we will be in compliance with licensing. The staff and I truly appreciate your help with this.

Leslie James Director JKCP