



Immunizations Required for 7th Grade Entry

To help protect all students from whooping cough and chickenpox, California law requires students entering 7th grade to be vaccinated with the Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) and Varicella (chickenpox) vaccines.

By law, 7th grade students who do not submit proof of receiving a Tdap booster and the second Varicella shot will not be able to attend on-site classes until proof is provided to the school. The Tetanus-Diphtheria booster shot alone (Td), will not meet this legal requirement.

Parents must submit their child's Immunization Record as proof of completion. To ensure that students will start their 7th grade year on time, parents/guardians are urged to:

1. Review the Frequently Asked Questions below.

2. Get your child's Tdap and second Varicella shots early if they have not already received them. Make an appointment with your child's health provider or clinic to receive the shots now in order to avoid the back-to-school rush.

3. Send proof of immunization to the school through one of the following methods.

- *Preferred Method:* Scan or take a photo and email to immunization.records@springscs.org subject line: Immunization Records Update (student's name)
- Drop off at your nearest Springs Student Center
- Mail a copy to Springs Charter Schools, Attn: Student Records, 27740 Jefferson Avenue, Temecula, CA 92590

Exemption Notifications

- Please note that ALL immunization exemptions, including "permanent" CAIR-ME exemptions, expire at the end of the grade span; grade span being birth through preschool, TK / Kindergarten through grade 6, and Grades 7 to 12. This means if you have an active medical exemption, it must be renewed prior to the start of 7th grade.
- Families who have a previous Personal Beliefs Exemption (PBE) also expire at the end of the grade span, and a new medical exemption or complete immunization record must be submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact the Student Records Department at (951) 252-8811 or via e-mail at immunization.records@springscs.org.

Sincerely,

Student Records Department

SPRINGS CHARTER SCHOOLS

Phone: 951-252-8811

Email: immunization.records@springscs.org

Address: 27740 Jefferson Ave., Temecula, CA 92590

Website: springscs.org

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Pertussis (whooping cough) and Varicella (chicken pox) Vaccination Requirement

What is the Varicella and whooping cough (pertussis) booster requirement?

Per California law, all students entering, advancing, or transferring into 7th grade need proof of **two** chicken pox immunizations (Varicella) and proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster immunization (Tdap).

Do all 7th grade students need to get the whooping cough and chickenpox immunization?

Yes. Unless they have a valid medical exemption through CAIR-ME, or attend our Homeschool or Venture Online programs, all students going into 7th grade must have proof of two Varicella immunizations and the Tdap booster. This includes current students and new students. Many students have already received the vaccine and simply need to supply proof to the school, so check with your healthcare provider.

My student is enrolled in the Homeschool or Venture Online program. Are the second Varicella and Tdap booster required?

No. However, please submit proof of any immunization given by your healthcare provider. Keep in mind that students missing vaccines will not be able to transfer into academy programs.

Why are the Varicella and Tdap vaccines required for public school students?

These requirements will help protect your child and others in your school and community from contracting chicken pox and whooping cough. Chickenpox is a highly contagious disease that causes an itchy rash with small, fluid-filled blisters, and possible serious complications like pneumonia, and bacterial infections (www.CDC.gov, www.mayoclinic.org). Nationally, the Varicella vaccine has prevented 9,000 hospitalizations and about 100 deaths each year (www.CDC.gov). In addition, whooping cough is a serious disease that causes coughing fits that can last for months. In the past, whooping cough has been widespread in California.

Why should my child get vaccinated for Varicella and Tdap?

In addition to being a school requirement, children who get a Tdap booster and Varicella vaccine will be better protected during their school years. Also, schools have had to close because there are not enough healthy teachers to keep schools open.

When should my child get vaccinated for Varicella and Tdap?

Now. Unimmunized children are at risk for catching whooping cough and chickenpox, getting very sick, and missing weeks of school. Besides protecting your child, you can also beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment now. Keep documentation of your child's shots, and submit the record to the school.

What if my child had whooping cough recently or in the past?

Any protection (immunity) developed after having whooping cough wears off and leaves your child at risk for getting whooping cough again. A whooping cough booster shot is needed to both protect your child in the future and to meet the school requirement. A Tdap dose administered on or after the 7th birthday will meet the requirement.

What if my child had chickenpox recently or in the past?

Proof of chickenpox is required to be excused from this school requirement. An acceptable form includes a valid medical exemption through CAIR-ME from your healthcare provider.

Instead of getting the shots, can a student get a blood test to check for protection (immunity) against whooping cough and chickenpox?

No. Testing for immunity to whooping cough and chickenpox is not reliable and will not meet the state requirement.

What if my child does not have proof of a Tdap shot or Varicella shots before school starts?

Your child will not be able to start school until documentation of complete vaccine requirements is submitted and processed.

Is there a grace period/extension to get the shot AFTER school starts?

No. There is no grace period or extension. Under current law, schools do not have the option to provide a grace period. All 7th grade students need to show proof of Varicella and Tdap immunizations, or submit a valid medical exemption before starting school.

How long do you have to wait after your last tetanus shot before getting Tdap?

According to state and national recommendations, the dose of Tdap required for the State law may be given at any time after the last tetanus shot.

How long do you have to wait after your first Varicella shot before getting the second one?

According to state and national recommendations, the 2nd dose of Varicella may be given four weeks after the 1st dose for students 13 years and older.

What if my child has already had the vaccine? Do I let the school know once my child receives the vaccine? Scan and email your child's immunization record to immunization.records@springscs.org.

What exemptions are permitted by California law?

Only medical exemptions issued through California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption website ([CAIR-ME](#)) are permitted. Parents or guardians of students are no longer allowed to submit a personal belief exemption (PBE). All medical exemptions (whether or not they are issued through CAIR-ME) are no longer valid once a student advances or enters 7th grade. Currently our schools are allowing non-immunized students to enroll/remain enrolled in our home-based programs (Homeschool and Venture Online). However, parents or guardians must continue to provide immunization records for these students to the schools, and schools must continue to maintain and report records of immunizations that have been received for these students. The immunization requirements do not prohibit pupils from accessing special education and related services required by their individualized education plans.

What does it mean that all exemptions expire at the end of a grade span?

Exemptions are valid until your child advances to the next "grade span," which means until the child moves up to the next school or changes schools. This is true of current CAIR-ME exemptions as well as previous grandfathered PBEs. The law specifies three grade spans:

- Birth through preschool
- TK / Kindergarten through grade 6
- Grades 7 to 12

What is a valid medical exemption?

Medical exemptions can only be issued through the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption website ([CAIR-ME](#)) by physicians licensed in California. Schools and child care facilities may only accept medical exemptions that are issued using CAIR-ME. Hard copy forms and letters from doctors are not acceptable.

What if my student had a personal belief exemption (PBE) on file prior to 7th grade, what shots does my student need?

When this student enters 7th grade all the required vaccines must be up-to-date. A PBE is valid until your child advances to the next "grade span," which means until the child moves up to the next school or changes schools. The law specifies three grade spans:

- Birth through preschool
- TK / Kindergarten through grade 6
- Grades 7 to 12

I have no health insurance – what do I do?

Please check with a clinic close to you:

Los Angeles County – For referrals to no cost and low cost immunization providers, dial (800) 339-6993 (LA County Information Line) or go online to: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/clinics.htm>

Orange County - The Tdap vaccine is available for all qualified children and adults at the OC Health Care Agency (HCA) Immunization Clinic, Monday through Friday. Please call (800) 914-4887 for more information.

Riverside County – Go to <http://www.rivco-familycarecenters.org> for locations. Call the Centralized Scheduling Center to schedule your appointment at (800) 720-9553.

San Bernardino County - Go to <https://dph.sbcounty.gov/programs/clinics/clinic-locations/> for locations. To make an appointment call 1 (800) 722-4777 to make an appointment for all clinic services.

San Diego County – To learn about vaccines at County Public Health Centers, please call (866) 358-2966 or go online to www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/programs/phs/immunization_branch/immunization_clinic_schedule.html for locations.

If you cannot get an appointment, please check with your local pharmacy.

Parent's Guide to Immunizations is provided by the California Department of Health, please visit: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-222School.pdf>