Process for Medical Exemptions (MEs) to Immunizations Required for School in California



Doctor issues an ME online at CAIR-ME and gives ME form to family.



Family submits ME form to school.



School verifies ME and confirms child meets requirements. Child attends school.

ME is reviewed if:



- A school vaccination rate is less than 95% or not reported, or
- A physician issues more than 5 medical exemptions in a year, or
- Necessary to protect public health

If ME is reviewed:

- Clinicians at California Department of Public Health review information submitted in CAIR-ME.
- Doctor issuing ME may be requested to submit additional information about child.
- ME initially revoked if 2 reviewers find that ME does not meet criteria in California law. (If criteria met, ME remains valid.)

If ME is initially revoked:

- Family may file an appeal within 30 days.
- ME under appeal is reviewed by independent physicians convened by California Health and Human Services Agency.
- Issuing doctor and family may submit additional documentation to support the appeal.

Child may attend school throughout the review and appeal.

If the appeal is denied or no appeal is filed:



- Parents, doctor, and school notified that ME is permanently revoked.
- Child no longer exempt from immunization requirements related to ME.
- Family submits proof within 10 school days that the child is meeting immunization requirements related to ME.
  - For example, child now follows the conditional immunization schedule for missing doses.
- If doctor has 5 or more MEs revoked in a year, the Medical Board of California may choose to open an investigation.

Visit CAIR-ME.cdph.ca.gov for more information.

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