

Obtaining a Medical Exemption: Guide for Parents and Physicians



New medical exemptions for school and child care entry must be issued through the [California Immunization Registry - Medical Exemption \(CAIR-ME\)](https://cair-me.cdph.ca.gov) website (cair-me.cdph.ca.gov).

Medical exemptions can only be issued by doctors (MDs or DOs) licensed in California and must meet applicable American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) criteria.

To Obtain a Medical Exemption for School/Child Care Entry:

1. The parent creates an account in [CAIR-ME](https://cair-me.cdph.ca.gov) (cair-me.cdph.ca.gov) and applies for an exemption. They will receive a medical exemption application number.
2. Follow [Instructions to Request a Medical Exemption \(PDF\)](#).
3. The parent provides the medical exemption application number to the child's doctor.
4. If the doctor doesn't have a [CAIR-ME](https://cair-me.cdph.ca.gov) account, the doctor registers in CAIR-ME, then logs in, searches for the child, and issues the medical exemption.
5. After issuing the medical exemption, the doctor provides a **printed** or **electronic copy** of the medical exemption to the parents. Parents are not able to print out a medical exemption.
6. The parent submits a copy of the medical exemption to the school or child care facility.
7. The school or child care facility confirms that the medical exemption meets the requirements by ensuring that the information on the exemption is correct and checking the status in CAIR-ME.



Note: The requirement to issue all new medical exemptions through CAIR-ME includes exemptions for children who have had documented chickenpox disease.

Resources:

[Shots for School Website](https://cdph.ca.gov/ShotsForSchool) (cdph.ca.gov/ShotsForSchool)
[Medical Exemption FAQs](#)

For more information, contact: medicalexemptions@cdph.ca.gov.