

PROMOTING A
HEALTHY AND
SUPPORTIVE
SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENT

Newsletter
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SACRAMENTO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH FOR SCHOOLS



IMMUNIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATES

Recent changes to State education law ([Education Code section 48000](#)) allows public schools to admit students into transitional kindergarten (TK) as young as 3 years old. However, the immunizations required for TK are typically recommended for children who are at least 4 years old. The CDPH Immunization Branch has revised its [Transitional Kindergarten FAQs](#) to help address questions about which immunization requirements apply to younger TK students. For now, schools are recommended to conditionally admit these students and follow up with them once they turn 4 years old to ensure they meet the [TK/K immunization requirements](#).

Get a digital copy of your vaccine records. More information about obtaining your immunization records can be found [here](#).

The California Department of Public Health's online immunization training can be found [here](#).

Please visit the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), site to find information about [school immunization requirements](#).

The [CAIR-ME site](#) offers information about current valid Medical Exemptions. Please visit the Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) [Immunization Assistance Program website](#) for additional resources. Please call the SCPH Immunization Assistance Program at (916) 875- 7468 or email immunize@saccounty.net with any questions.

HEALTH OBSERVANCES

MAY

- [Arrrr! Intl. Scurvy Awareness Day \(2nd\)](#)
- [Children's Mental Health Awareness \(11th\)](#)
- [Zzzzz. Better Sleep Month](#)

JUNE

- [Cancer from the Sun Month](#)
- [National Panic Day \(18th\)](#)
- [World Sickle Cell Awareness Day \(19th\)](#)

JULY

- [Blink 182 Day \(1st\)](#) It's summer. Why not?
- [Cleft & Craniofacial Awareness Month](#)
- [International Self Care Day \(24th\)](#)

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KINDERGARTEN ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT

In 2006, AB 1433 was enacted requiring children entering public school for the first time (in Kindergarten or first grade) to have a dental screening by the end of the first school year. A Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) form was developed to gather this data. The intent of this bill was to ensure students were free from dental disease so that they could learn without the distraction of dental pain. Children free from dental disease can eat nutritious foods, develop proper speech, and enjoy good self-esteem. The baby teeth are also important to hold space for the eruption of the permanent teeth.

In 2017, SB 379 amended the requirement to include the use of a centralized reporting system to aggregate the data. The System for California Oral Health Reporting (SCOHR, ab1433.org) was developed by the San Joaquin County Office of Education for this purpose. The passage of SB 379 also allows school districts to use on-site passive dental consent. This removes one of the barriers to receiving the required dental screening by requiring the parent or guardian to opt out in writing. As a result, most districts in Sacramento County have adopted passive dental screenings in their schools.

In FY18-19 only five schools were reporting their dental screening data into SCOHR. Sacramento County Oral Health Program hosted a workshop in 2019 to educate school districts and neighboring counties about the mandate and how to enter their school's data. By FY19-20 ALL districts, including SCOE, reported their data into SCOHR!

In early 2020, COVID-19 caused schools and dental offices to close. While dental offices were allowed to reopen a few months later, schools continued to be remote until the following year. Once schools reopened, there was a moratorium on visitors so that some of the screenings being done passively or actively in schools could not resume in the same way. Staff turnover and reassignments created confusion.

Although aggregate totals decreased, with only one exception, all districts still reported some data into SCOHR in FY's 20-21 and 21-22. Sacramento County Public Health congratulates all the school districts in Sacramento County, their nurses, health aides and health assistants on this accomplishment!

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

May can be one of the busiest, most difficult months for schools. Testing, deadlines, grading, evening events—they all add up. That doesn't even include all of the stressors of everyday life and what we see in the news. This May—and all year long—it is critical that we prioritize our mental and physical wellbeing for ourselves, colleagues, friends, & family.

During this annual observance, we are reminded to reach out to those in our lives who may be struggling in silence and to also take time to care for ourselves. By simply starting a conversation and providing words of encouragement, you can make a difference for someone at work, in your classroom, in your community, or even yourself.

Interested in getting the conversation started on a larger level? Check out the ["Mental Illness: It's not always what you think"](#) project and consider [hosting a speaker](#) for your students &/or staff.

