

Immunization Registry Notice to Patients and Parents

Immunizations or 'shots' prevent serious diseases. Tuberculosis (TB) screening tests help to determine if you may have TB infection and can be required for school or work. Keeping track of shots/TB tests you have received can be hard. It's especially hard if more than one doctor gave them. Today, doctors use a secure computer system called an *immunization registry* to keep track of shots and TB tests. If you change doctors, your new doctor can use the registry to see the shot/TB test record. It's your right to choose if you want shot/TB test records shared in the *California Immunization Registry*.

How Does a Registry Help You?

- Keeps track of all shots and TB tests (skin tests/chest x-rays), so you don't miss any or get too many
- Sends reminders when you or your child need shots
- Gives you a copy of the shot/TB record from the doctor
- Can show proof about shots/TB tests needed to start child care, school, or a new job

How Does a Registry Help Your Health Care Team?

Doctors, nurses, health plans, and public health agencies use the registry to:

- See which shots/TB tests are needed
- Remind you about shots needed
- Prevent disease in your community
- Help with record-keeping

Can Schools or Other Programs See the Registry?

Yes, but this is limited. Schools, child care, and other agencies allowed under California law may:

- See which shots/TB tests children in their programs need
- Make sure children have all shots/TB tests needed to start child care or school

What Information Can Be Shared in a Registry?

- patient's name, sex, and birth date
- parents' or guardians' names
- limited information to identify patients
- details about a patient's shots/TB tests

What's entered in the registry is treated like other private medical information. Misuse of the registry can be punished by law. Under California law, only your doctor's office, health plan, or public health department may see your address and phone number.

Patient and Parent Rights

It's your legal right to ask:

- not to share your (or your child's) registry shot/TB test records with others besides your doctor*
- not to get shot appointment reminders from your doctor's office
- to look at a copy of your or your child's shot/TB test records
- who has seen the records or to have the doctor change any mistakes

If you DO want your or your child's records in the registry, do nothing. You're all done.

If you DO NOT want your doctor's office to share your immunization/TB test information with other registry users, tell your doctor or download a "Decline or Start Sharing/Information Request Form" from the CAIR website (<http://cairweb.org/cair-forms/>) and FAX or email it to the CAIR Help Desk at 1-888-436-8320 or CAIRHelpDesk@cdph.ca.gov.

For more information, contact the CAIR Help Desk at 800-578-7889 or CAIRHelpDesk@cdph.ca.gov

* By law, public health officials can also look at the registry in the case of a public health emergency.