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SB-276 Immunizations: medical exemptions. (2019-2020)

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Senate Bill No. 276

CHAPTER 278

An act to amend Sections 120370, 120375, and 120440 of, and to add Sections 120372 and 120372.05 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

[Approved by Governor September 09, 2019. Filed with Secretary of State September 09, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 276, Pan. Immunizations: medical exemptions.

Existing law prohibits the governing authority of a school or other institution from admitting for attendance any pupil who fails to obtain required immunizations within the time limits prescribed by the State Department of Public Health. Existing law exempts from those requirements a pupil whose parents have filed with the governing authority a written statement by a licensed physician to the effect that immunization is not considered safe for that child, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of their medical condition or circumstances, including, but not limited to, family medical history.

This bill would instead require the State Department of Public Health, by January 1, 2021, to develop and make available for use by licensed physicians and surgeons an electronic, standardized, statewide medical exemption request that would be transmitted using the California Immunization Registry (CAIR), and which, commencing January 1, 2021, would be the only documentation of a medical exemption that a governing authority may accept. The bill would specify the information to be included in the medical exemption form, including a certification under penalty of perjury that the statements and information contained in the form are true, accurate, and complete. The bill would, commencing January 1, 2021, require a physician and surgeon to inform a parent or guardian of the bill's requirements and to examine the child and submit a completed medical exemption request form to the department, as specified. By expanding the crime of perjury, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would require a parent or guardian, by January 1, 2021, to submit to the department a copy of a medical exemption granted prior to that date for inclusion in a state database in order for the medical exemption to remain valid. The bill would require the department to annually review immunization reports from schools and institutions to identify schools with an overall immunization rate of less than 95%, physicians and surgeons who submitted 5 or more medical exemption forms in a calendar year, and schools and institutions that do not report immunization rates to the department. The bill would require a clinically trained department staff member who is a physician and surgeon or a registered nurse to review all medical exemption forms submitted meeting those conditions. The bill would authorize the medical exemptions determined by that staff member to be inappropriate or otherwise invalid to be reviewed by the State Public Health Officer or a physician and surgeon designated by the State Public Health Officer, and revoked by the State Public Health Officer or physician and surgeon designee, under prescribed circumstances.

The bill would authorize a parent or guardian to appeal a medical exemption denial or revocation to the Secretary of California Health and Human Services. The appeal would be conducted by an independent expert review panel of licensed physicians and surgeons established by the secretary. The bill would require the independent expert review panel to evaluate appeals consistent

with specified guidelines and to submit its decision to the secretary. The bill would require the secretary to adopt the determination of the independent expert review panel and promptly issue a written decision to the child's parent or guardian. The final decision of the secretary would not be subject to further administrative review. The bill would allow a child whose medical exemption revocation is appealed to continue in attendance at the school or institution without being required to commence the immunization schedule required for conditional admittance, provided that the appeal is filed within 30 calendar days of revocation of the medical exemption.

The bill would require the department and the independent expert review panel to comply with all applicable state and federal privacy and confidentiality laws and would authorize disclosure of information submitted in the medical exemption form in accordance with requirements set forth in the bill. The bill would make related conforming changes. The bill would authorize the department to implement and administer the medical exemption provisions through provider bulletins, or similar instructions, without taking regulatory action.

Existing law requires the governing authority of a school or other institution to file a written report on the immunization status of new entrants to the school or institution under their jurisdiction with the department and the local health department at times and on forms prescribed by the department.

This bill would instead require these reports to be filed on at least an annual basis.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) Immunizations are public health measures to ensure protection against debilitating and sometimes fatal diseases.
- (b) Immunization requirements have led to greatly diminished or eliminated debilitating childhood diseases, such as measles.
- (c) According to the State Department of Public Health immunization assessment for the 2018–19 school year:
 - (1) The immunization rate, or the rate at which children attending school are fully vaccinated on schedule, for kindergarten-aged children was 94.8 percent, which is 0.3 percent less than the previous school year.
 - (2) Of the schools reporting, 16 percent of California counties had kindergarten immunization rates below 90 percent.
- (d) By May 2019, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 1,022 cases of the measles nationwide. Fifty-one of those incidences were in California.
- (e) For all but a small number of individuals, immunizations are safe and effective.
- (f) Effective immunizations not only protect immunized individuals from disease, but have the ability to provide indirect protection for which immunizations are not effective or safe. This indirect protection is called herd or community immunity.
- (g) Herd immunity successfully occurs if and when a sufficient portion of the community is immune. Herd immunity prevents sustained transmission of disease even when immunization coverage is below 100 percent.

SEC. 2. Section 120370 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

120370. (a) (1) Prior to January 1, 2021, if the parent or guardian files with the governing authority a written statement by a licensed physician and surgeon to the effect that the physical condition of the child is such, or medical circumstances relating to the child are such, that immunization is not considered safe, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances, including, but not limited to, family medical history, for which the physician and surgeon does not recommend immunization, that child shall be exempt from the requirements of this chapter, except for Section 120380, and exempt from Sections 120400, 120405, 120410, and 120415 to the extent indicated by the physician and surgeon's statement.

(2) Commencing January 1, 2021, an exemption issued before January 1, 2021, pursuant to this subdivision is valid only if the parent or guardian has complied with paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 120372.

(b) If there is good cause to believe that a child has been exposed to a disease listed in subdivision (b) of Section 120335 and the child's documentary proof of immunization status does not show proof of immunization against that disease, that child may be

temporarily excluded from the school or institution until the local health officer is satisfied that the child is no longer at risk of developing or transmitting the disease.

SEC. 3. Section 120372 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

120372. (a) (1) By January 1, 2021, the department shall develop and make available for use by licensed physicians and surgeons an electronic, standardized, statewide medical exemption certification form that shall be transmitted directly to the department's California Immunization Registry (CAIR) established pursuant to Section 120440. Pursuant to Section 120375, the form shall be printed, signed, and submitted directly to the school or institution at which the child will attend, submitted directly to the governing authority of the school or institution, or submitted to that governing authority through the CAIR where applicable. Notwithstanding Section 120370, commencing January 1, 2021, the standardized form shall be the only documentation of a medical exemption that the governing authority may accept, except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).

(2) At a minimum, the form shall require all of the following information:

(A) The name, California medical license number, business address, and telephone number of the physician and surgeon who issued the medical exemption, and of the primary care physician of the child, if different from the physician and surgeon who issued the medical exemption.

(B) The name of the child for whom the exemption is sought, the name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and the name and address of the child's school or other institution.

(C) A statement certifying that the physician and surgeon has conducted a physical examination and evaluation of the child consistent with the relevant standard of care and complied with all applicable requirements of this section.

(D) Whether the physician and surgeon who issued the medical exemption is the child's primary care physician. If the issuing physician and surgeon is not the child's primary care physician, the issuing physician and surgeon shall also provide an explanation as to why the issuing physician and not the primary care physician is filling out the medical exemption form.

(E) How long the physician and surgeon has been treating the child.

(F) A description of the medical basis for which the exemption for each individual immunization is sought. Each specific immunization shall be listed separately and space on the form shall be provided to allow for the inclusion of descriptive information for each immunization for which the exemption is sought.

(G) Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary, including the date upon which a temporary medical exemption will expire. A temporary exemption shall not exceed one year.

(H) An authorization for the department to contact the issuing physician and surgeon for purposes of this section and for the release of records related to the medical exemption to the department, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California.

(I) A certification by the issuing physician and surgeon, under penalty of perjury, that the statements and information contained in the form are true, accurate, and complete.

(3) An issuing physician and surgeon shall not charge for either of the following:

(A) Filling out a medical exemption form pursuant to this section.

(B) A physical examination related to the renewal of a temporary medical exemption.

(b) Commencing January 1, 2021, if a parent or guardian requests a licensed physician and surgeon to submit a medical exemption for the parent's or guardian's child, the physician and surgeon shall inform the parent or guardian of the requirements of this section. If the parent or guardian consents, the physician and surgeon shall examine the child and submit a completed medical exemption certification form to the department. A medical exemption certification form may be submitted to the department at any time.

(c) (1) By January 1, 2021, the department shall create a standardized system to monitor immunization levels in schools and institutions as specified in Sections 120375 and 120440, and to monitor patterns of unusually high exemption form submissions by a particular physician and surgeon.

(2) If a medical exemption has been authorized pursuant to Section 120370 prior to the adoption of the statewide standardized form, a parent or guardian shall submit, by January 1, 2021, a copy of the medical exemption to the department for inclusion in a state database in order for the medical exemption to remain valid.

(d) (1) The department, at a minimum, shall annually review immunization reports from all schools and institutions in order to identify medical exemption forms submitted to the department pursuant to Section 120370 and under this section that will be subject to paragraph (2).

(2) A clinically trained immunization department staff member, who is either a physician and surgeon or a registered nurse, shall review all medical exemptions from any of the following:

(A) Schools or institutions subject to Section 120375 with an overall immunization rate of less than 95 percent.

(B) Physicians and surgeons who have submitted five or more medical exemptions in a calendar year.

(C) Schools or institutions subject to Section 120375 that do not provide reports of vaccination rates to the department.

(3) (A) The department shall identify those medical exemption forms that do not meet applicable CDC, ACIP, or AAP criteria for appropriate medical exemptions. The department may contact the primary care physician and surgeon or issuing physician and surgeon to request additional information to support the medical exemption.

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the department, based on the medical discretion of the clinically trained immunization staff member, may accept a medical exemption that is based on other contraindications or precautions, including consideration of family medical history, if the issuing physician and surgeon provides written documentation to support the medical exemption that is consistent with the relevant standard of care.

(C) A medical exemption that the reviewing immunization department staff member determines to be inappropriate or otherwise invalid under subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall also be reviewed by the State Public Health Officer or a physician and surgeon from the department's immunization program designated by the State Public Health Officer. Pursuant to this review, the State Public Health Officer or physician and surgeon designee may revoke the medical exemption.

(4) The department shall notify the parent or guardian, issuing physician and surgeon, the school or institution, and the local public health officer with jurisdiction over the school or institution of a denial or revocation under this subdivision.

(5) If a medical exemption is revoked pursuant to this subdivision, the child shall continue in attendance. However, within 30 calendar days of the revocation, the child shall commence the immunization schedule required for conditional admittance under Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 6000) of Division 1 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations in order to remain in attendance, unless an appeal is filed pursuant to Section 120372.05 within that 30-day time period, in which case the child shall continue in attendance and shall not be required to otherwise comply with immunization requirements unless and until the revocation is upheld on appeal.

(6) (A) If the department determines that a physician's and surgeon's practice is contributing to a public health risk in one or more communities, the department shall report the physician and surgeon to the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, as appropriate. The department shall not accept a medical exemption form from the physician and surgeon until the physician and surgeon demonstrates to the department that the public health risk no longer exists, but in no event shall the physician and surgeon be barred from submitting these forms for less than two years.

(B) If there is a pending accusation against a physician and surgeon with the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California relating to immunization standards of care, the department shall not accept a medical exemption form from the physician and surgeon unless and until the accusation is resolved in favor of the physician and surgeon.

(7) The department shall notify the Medical Board of California or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, as appropriate, of any physician and surgeon who has five or more medical exemption forms in a calendar year that are revoked pursuant to this subdivision.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a clinically trained immunization program staff member who is a physician and surgeon or a registered nurse may review any exemption in the CAIR or other state database as necessary to protect public health.

(e) The department, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California shall enter into a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

(f) In administering this section, the department and the independent expert review panel created pursuant to Section 120372.05 shall comply with all applicable state and federal privacy and confidentiality laws, and may disclose information submitted in the medical exemption form in accordance with Section 120440.

(g) The department shall establish the process and guidelines for review of medical exemptions pursuant to this section. The department shall communicate the process to providers and post this information on the department's website.

(h) If the department or the California Health and Human Services Agency determines that contracts are required to implement this section, the department may award these contracts on a single-source or sole-source basis. The contracts are not subject to Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code.

(i) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the department may implement and administer this section through provider bulletins, or similar instructions, without taking regulatory action.

(j) For purposes of administering this section, the department and the California Health and Human Services Agency appeals process shall be exempt from the rulemaking and administrative adjudication provisions in the Administrative Procedure Act Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340), and Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370), Chapter 4.5 (commencing with 11400), and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of, Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SEC. 4. Section 120372.05 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

120372.05. (a) A medical exemption revoked pursuant to Section 120372 may be appealed by a parent or guardian to the Secretary of California Health and Human Services. Parents or guardians may provide necessary information for purposes of the appeal.

(b) The secretary shall establish an independent expert review panel, consisting of three licensed physicians and surgeons who have relevant knowledge, training, and experience relating to primary care or immunization to review appeals. The agency shall establish the process and guidelines for the appeals process pursuant to this section. The agency shall post this information on the agency's internet website. The agency shall also establish requirements, including conflict-of-interest standards, consistent with the purposes of this chapter, that a physician and surgeon shall meet in order to qualify to serve on the panel.

(c) The independent expert review panel shall evaluate appeals consistent with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines or the relevant standard of care, as applicable.

(d) The independent expert review panel shall submit its determination to the secretary. The secretary shall adopt the determination of the independent expert review panel and shall promptly issue a written decision to the child's parent or guardian. The decision shall not be subject to further administrative review.

(e) A child whose medical exemption revocation pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 120372 is appealed under this section shall continue in attendance and shall not be required to commence the immunization required for conditional admittance under Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 6000) of Division 1 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, provided that the appeal is filed within 30 calendar days of revocation of the medical exemption.

(f) For purposes for administering this section, the department and the California Health and Human Services Agency appeals process shall be exempt from the rulemaking and administrative adjudication provisions in the Administrative Procedure Act Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340), and Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370), Chapter 4.5 (commencing with 11400), and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of, Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SEC. 5. Section 120375 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

120375. (a) The governing authority of each school or institution included in Section 120335 shall require documentary proof of each entrant's immunization status. The governing authority shall record the immunizations of each new entrant in the entrant's permanent enrollment and scholarship record on a form provided by the department. The immunization record of each new entrant admitted conditionally shall be reviewed periodically by the governing authority to ensure that within the time periods designated by regulation of the department the entrant has been fully immunized against all of the diseases listed in Section 120335, and immunizations received after entry shall be added to the pupil's immunization record.

(b) The governing authority of each school or institution included in Section 120335 shall prohibit from further attendance any pupil admitted conditionally who failed to obtain the required immunizations within the time limits allowed in the regulations of the department until that pupil has been fully immunized against all of the diseases listed in Section 120335, unless the pupil is exempted under Section 120370 or 120372.

(c) The governing authority shall file a written report, on at least an annual basis, on the immunization status of new entrants to the school or institution under their jurisdiction with the department and the local health department on forms prescribed by the department. As provided in paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 49076 of the Education Code, the local health department shall have access to the complete health information as it relates to immunization of each student in the schools or other institutions listed in Section 120335 in order to determine immunization deficiencies.

(d) The governing authority shall cooperate with the county health officer in carrying out programs for the immunization of persons applying for admission to any school or institution under its jurisdiction. The governing board of any school district may use funds, property, and personnel of the district for that purpose. The governing authority of any school or other institution may permit any licensed physician or any qualified registered nurse to administer immunizing agents to any person seeking admission to any school or institution under its jurisdiction.

SEC. 6. Section 120440 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

120440. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Health care provider" means any person licensed pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 500) of the Business and Professions Code or a clinic or health facility licensed pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 1200).

(2) "Schools, child care facilities, and family child care homes" means those institutions referred to in subdivision (b) of Section 120335, regardless of whether they directly provide immunizations to patients or clients.

(3) "WIC service provider" means any public or private nonprofit agency contracting with the department to provide services under the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children, as provided for in Article 2 (commencing with Section 123275) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 106.

(4) "Health care plan" means a health care service plan as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 1345, a government-funded program the purpose of which is paying the costs of health care, or an insurer as described in Sections 10123.5 and 10123.55 of the Insurance Code, regardless of whether the plan directly provides immunizations to patients or clients.

(5) "County welfare department" means a county welfare agency administering the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200.5) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(6) "Foster care agency" means any of the county and state social services agencies providing foster care services in California.

(7) "Tuberculosis screening" means an approved intradermal tuberculin test or any other test for tuberculosis infection that is recommended by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and licensed by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

(b) (1) Local health officers may operate immunization information systems pursuant to their authority under Section 120175, in conjunction with the Immunization Branch of the State Department of Public Health. Local health officers and the State Department of Public Health may operate these systems in either or both of the following manners:

(A) Separately within their individual jurisdictions.

(B) Jointly among more than one jurisdiction.

(2) This subdivision does not preclude local health officers from sharing the information set forth in paragraphs (1) to (11), inclusive, of subdivision (c) with other health officers jointly operating the system.

(c) Notwithstanding Sections 49075 and 49076 of the Education Code, Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 10850) of Part 2 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or any other provision of law, unless a refusal to permit recordsharing is made pursuant to subdivision (e), health care providers, and other agencies, including, but not limited to, schools, child care facilities, service providers for the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), health care plans, foster care agencies, and county welfare departments, may disclose the information set forth in paragraphs (1) to (11), inclusive, from the patient's medical record, or the client's record, to local health departments operating countywide or regional immunization information and reminder systems and the State Department of Public Health. Local health departments and the State Department of Public Health may disclose the information set forth in paragraphs (1) to (11), inclusive, to each other and, upon a request for information pertaining to a specific person, to health care providers taking care of the patient and to the Medical Board of California and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California. Local health departments and the State Department of Public Health may disclose the information in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, and paragraphs (9) to (11), inclusive, to schools, child care facilities, county welfare departments, and family child care homes to which the person is being admitted or in attendance, foster care agencies in assessing and providing medical care for children in foster care, and WIC service providers providing services to the person, health care plans arranging for immunization services for the patient, and county welfare departments assessing immunization histories of dependents of CalWORKs participants, upon request for information pertaining to a specific person. Determination of benefits based upon immunization of a dependent CalWORKs participant shall be made pursuant to Section 11265.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The following information shall be subject to this subdivision:

(1) The name of the patient or client and names of the parents or guardians of the patient or client.

(2) Date of birth of the patient or client.

(3) Types and dates of immunizations received by the patient or client.

(4) Manufacturer and lot number for each immunization received.

(5) Adverse reaction to immunizations received.

(6) Other nonmedical information necessary to establish the patient's or client's unique identity and record.

(7) Results of tuberculosis screening.

(8) Current address and telephone number of the patient or client and the parents or guardians of the patient or client.

(9) Patient's or client's gender.

(10) Patient's or client's place of birth.

(11) Patient's or client's information needed to comply with Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 120325), but excluding Section 120380.

(d) (1) Health care providers, local health departments, and the State Department of Public Health shall maintain the confidentiality of information listed in subdivision (c) in the same manner as other medical record information with patient identification that they possess. These providers, departments, and contracting agencies are subject to civil action and criminal penalties for the wrongful disclosure of the information listed in subdivision (c), in accordance with existing law. They shall use the information listed in subdivision (c) only for the following purposes:

(A) To provide immunization services to the patient or client, including issuing reminder notifications to patients or clients or their parents or guardians when immunizations are due.

(B) To provide or facilitate provision of third-party payer payments for immunizations.

(C) To compile and disseminate statistical information of immunization status on groups of patients or clients or populations in California, without identifying information for these patients or clients included in these groups or populations.

(D) In the case of health care providers only, as authorized by Part 2.6 (commencing with Section 56) of Division 1 of the Civil Code.

(2) Schools, child care facilities, family child care homes, WIC service providers, foster care agencies, county welfare departments, and health care plans shall maintain the confidentiality of information listed in subdivision (c) in the same manner as other client, patient, and pupil information that they possess. These institutions and providers are subject to civil action and criminal penalties for the wrongful disclosure of the information listed in subdivision (c), in accordance with existing law. They shall use the information listed in subdivision (c) only for those purposes provided in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (1) and as follows:

(A) In the case of schools, child care facilities, family child care homes, and county welfare departments, to carry out their responsibilities regarding required immunization for attendance or participation benefits, or both, as described in Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 120325), and in Section 11265.8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

(B) In the case of WIC service providers, to perform immunization status assessments of clients and to refer those clients found to be due or overdue for immunizations to health care providers.

(C) In the case of health care plans, to facilitate payments to health care providers, to assess the immunization status of their clients, and to tabulate statistical information on the immunization status of groups of patients, without including patient-identifying information in these tabulations.

(D) In the case of foster care agencies, to perform immunization status assessments of foster children and to assist those foster children found to be due or overdue for immunization in obtaining immunizations from health care providers.

(e) A patient or a patient's parent or guardian may refuse to permit recordsharing. The health care provider administering immunization and any other agency possessing any patient or client information listed in subdivision (c), if planning to provide patient or client information to an immunization system, as described in subdivision (b), shall inform the patient or client, or the parent or guardian of the patient or client, of the following:

(1) The information listed in subdivision (c) may be shared with local health departments and the State Department of Public Health. The health care provider or other agency shall provide the name and address of the State Department of Public Health or of the immunization registry with which the provider or other agency will share the information.

(2) Any of the information shared with local health departments and the State Department of Public Health shall be treated as confidential medical information and shall be used only to share with each other, and, upon request, with health care providers, schools, child care facilities, family child care homes, WIC service providers, county welfare departments, foster care agencies, and health care plans. These providers, agencies, and institutions shall, in turn, treat the shared information as confidential, and shall use it only as described in subdivision (d).

(3) The patient or client, or parent or guardian of the patient or client, has the right to examine any immunization-related information or tuberculosis screening results shared pursuant to this section and to correct any errors in it.

(4) The patient or client, or the parent or guardian of the patient or client, may refuse to allow this information to be shared pursuant to this section or to receive immunization reminder notifications at any time, or both. After refusal, the patient's or client's physician may maintain access to this information for the purposes of patient care or protecting the public health. After refusal, the local health department and the State Department of Public Health may maintain access to this information for the purpose of protecting the public health pursuant to Sections 100325, 120140, and 120175, as well as Sections 2500 to 2643.20, inclusive, of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

(f) (1) The health care provider administering the immunization or tuberculosis screening and any other agency possessing any patient or client information listed in subdivision (c), may inform the patient or client, or the parent or guardian of the patient or client, by ordinary mail, of the information in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (e). The mailing shall include a reasonable means for refusal, such as a return form or contact telephone number.

(2) The information in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (e) may also be presented to the parent or guardian of the patient or client during any hospitalization of the patient or client.

(g) If the patient or client, or parent or guardian of the patient or client, refuses to allow the information to be shared, pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (e), the health care provider or other agency may not share this information in the manner described in subdivision (c), except as provided in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (d).

(h) (1) Upon request of the patient or client, or the parent or guardian of the patient or client, in writing or by other means acceptable to the recipient, a local health department or the State Department of Public Health that has received information about a person pursuant to subdivision (c) shall do all of the following:

(A) Provide the name and address of other persons or agencies with whom the recipient has shared the information.

(B) Stop sharing the information in its possession after the date of the receipt of the request.

(2) After refusal, the patient's or client's physician may maintain access to this information for the purposes of patient care or protecting the public health. After refusal, the local health department and the State Department of Public Health may maintain access to this information for the purpose of protecting the public health pursuant to Sections 100325, 120140, and 120175, as well as Sections 2500 to 2643.20, inclusive, of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

(i) Upon notification, in writing or by other means acceptable to the recipient, of an error in the information, a local health department or the State Department of Public Health that has information about a person pursuant to subdivision (c) shall correct the error. If the recipient is aware of a disagreement about whether an error exists, information to that effect may be included.

(j) (1) Any party authorized to make medical decisions for a patient or client, including, but not limited to, those authorized by Section 6922, 6926, or 6927 of, Part 1.5 (commencing with Section 6550), Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 6910) of Part 4, or Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 7000) of Part 6, of Division 11 of, the Family Code, Section 1530.6 of the Health and Safety Code, or Sections 727 and 1755.3 of, and Article 6 (commencing with Section 300) of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2 of, the Welfare and Institutions Code, may permit sharing of the patient's or client's record with any of the immunization information systems authorized by this section.

(2) For a patient or client who is a dependent of a juvenile court, the court or a person or agency designated by the court may permit this recordsharing.

(3) For a patient or client receiving foster care, a person or persons licensed to provide residential foster care, or having legal custody, may permit this recordsharing.

(k) For purposes of supporting immunization information systems, the State Department of Public Health shall assist the Immunization Branch of the State Department of Public Health in both of the following:

(1) Providing department records containing information about publicly funded immunizations.

(2) Supporting efforts for the reporting of publicly funded immunizations into immunization information systems by health care providers and health care plans.

(l) Subject to any other provisions of state and federal law or regulation that limit the disclosure of health information and protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal information, local health departments and the State Department of Public Health may share the information listed in subdivision (c) with a state, local health departments, health care providers, immunization information systems, or any representative of an entity designated by federal or state law or regulation to receive this information. The State Department of Public Health may enter into written agreements to exchange confidential immunization information with other states for the purposes of patient care, protecting the public health, entrance into school, child care and other institutions requiring immunization prior to entry, and the other purposes described in subdivision (d). The written agreement shall provide that the state that receives confidential immunization information must maintain its confidentiality and may only use it for purposes of patient care, protecting the public health, entrance into school, child care and other institutions requiring immunization prior to entry, and the other purposes described in subdivision (d). Information may not be shared pursuant to this subdivision if a patient or client, or parent or guardian of a patient or client, refuses to allow the sharing of immunization information pursuant to subdivision (e).

SEC. 7. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.