

## Immunization Registry Notice to Patients and Parents

Immunizations or 'shots' prevent serious diseases. Keeping track of shots 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. If you change doctors, your new doctor can use the registry to see the shot record. It's your right to choose if you want shot records shared in the *California Immunization Registry*.

### How Does a Registry Help You?

- Keeps track of all shots, 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 record from the doctor
- Can show proof about shots 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 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 children in their programs need
- Make sure children have all shots needed to start child care or school

### What Information Can Be Shared in a Registry?

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

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 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 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 information with other registry users, request a "Decline or Start Sharing/Information Request Form" from your doctor's office or download it from the CAIR website (<http://cairweb.org/cair-forms/>).

For more information about your rights, call **(800-578-7889, toll free)** or email [CAIRHelpDesk@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CAIRHelpDesk@cdph.ca.gov) the CAIR Help Desk.

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