On June 30, 2015 Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 277 which will go into effect in July, 2016. This Bill significantly changes current school immunization law and requires for school children to be fully vaccinated in order to attend public or private schools, regardless of their parents’ personal or religious beliefs. The only exemption is for medical reasons. The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department encourages providers to share implications of this new law, summarized below, with parents of school-aged children. Early notice to parents will help alleviate back-to-school rushes for appointments and avoid unnecessary delays in immunizations.

Senate Bill 277 Summarized:

- Eliminates immunization exemptions based on religious or personal beliefs for children in child care and public and private schools;
- Permits personal belief exemptions submitted before January 1, 2016 to remain valid until a pupil reaches kindergarten or 7th grade;
- Removes immunization requirements for:
  - Students in home-based private schools
  - Students enrolled in an independent study program who do not receive classroom-based instruction
  - Access to special education and related services specified in an individualized education program
- Allows medical exemptions

Additional information about the implementation of SB 277 in California schools will be made available by the California Department of Public Health in 2016. Please visit the following websites for more information on SB 277:

The language of SB 277 is available at: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB277](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB277)

The Governor’s signing message is available at: [http://gov.ca.gov/docs/SB_277_Signing_Message.pdf](http://gov.ca.gov/docs/SB_277_Signing_Message.pdf)

Immunization laws currently in effect may be found at: [http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/](http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/)
Staying Cool This Summer

Keeping cool when temperatures reach record highs isn't just about comfort. Dangerously high temperatures can result in heat-related illnesses ranging from heat cramps to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The following tips can help you keep cool all summer long.

1. Alter your pattern of outdoor exercise to take advantage of cooler times (early morning or late evening). If you can't change the time of your workout, scale it down by doing fewer minutes, walking instead of running, or decreasing your level of exertion.

2. Wear loose-fitting clothing, preferably of a light color. Cotton clothing will keep you cooler than many synthetics.

3. Fill a spray bottle with water and keep it in the refrigerator for a quick refreshing spray to your face after being outdoors. Keep plastic bottles of water in the freezer; grab one when you're ready to go outside. As the ice melts, you'll have a supply of cold water with you.

4. Fans can help circulate air and make you feel cooler even in an air-conditioned house.

5. Try storing lotions or cosmetic toners in the refrigerator to use on hot, overtired feet.

6. Combat dehydration by drinking plenty of water along with sports drinks or other sources of electrolytes.

7. Avoid caffeine and alcohol as these will promote dehydration.

8. Instead of hot foods, try lighter summer fare including frequent small meals or snacks containing cold fruit or low fat dairy products. As an added benefit, you won't have to cook next to a hot stove.

9. If you don't have air-conditioning, arrange to spend at least parts of the day in a shopping mall, public library, movie theater, or other public space that is cool. Many cities have cooling centers that are open to the public on sweltering days.

10. Finally, use common sense. If the heat is intolerable, stay indoors when you can and avoid activities in direct sunlight or on hot asphalt surfaces. Pay special attention to the elderly, infants, and anyone with a chronic illness, as they may dehydrate easily and be more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Don't forget that pets also need protection from dehydration and heat-related illnesses too.

Epidemiology Program Updates

- Updated reports available on the Epidemiology Reports webpage:
  - The Final 2014-2015 Influenza Report for Santa Barbara County
  - The 2nd Quarter Communicable Disease Report
  - 2014 Newly Diagnosed HIV and AIDS Patients of Santa Barbara County

- In July, the Public Health Department will be launching the 2015 Community Health Assessment. Look for a future press release outlining:
  - The scope and intent of the survey,
  - A listing of locations/partners conducting the assessments
  - Web links to the electronic English and Spanish versions of the Assessment

The final report compiling the findings is projected to be published by the end of the year.