

Personal Belief Exemptions: A Growing Risk to Public Health

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California Immunization Coalition



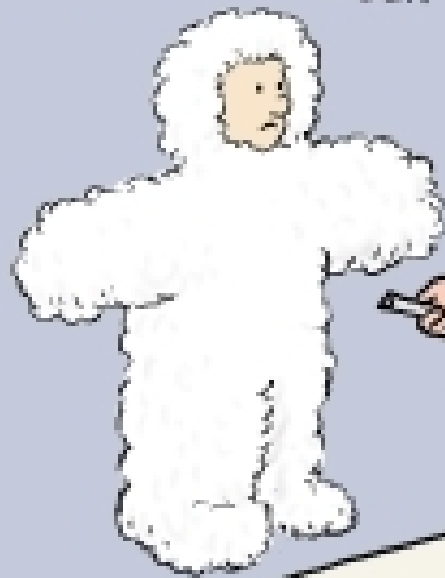
What We Do



- Statewide Coalition - 501 (c) (3) non profit
- Achieve full immunization protection to protect health and prevent serious illness
- Advocacy and Education

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMISSION

PROPOSED
CHILD PROTECTION
COTTON WOOL SUIT



IT DOESN'T LOOK SAFE TO ME
AT ALL - HIS FACE IS TOTALLY
EXPOSED TO DANGER

© Original Artist

Background

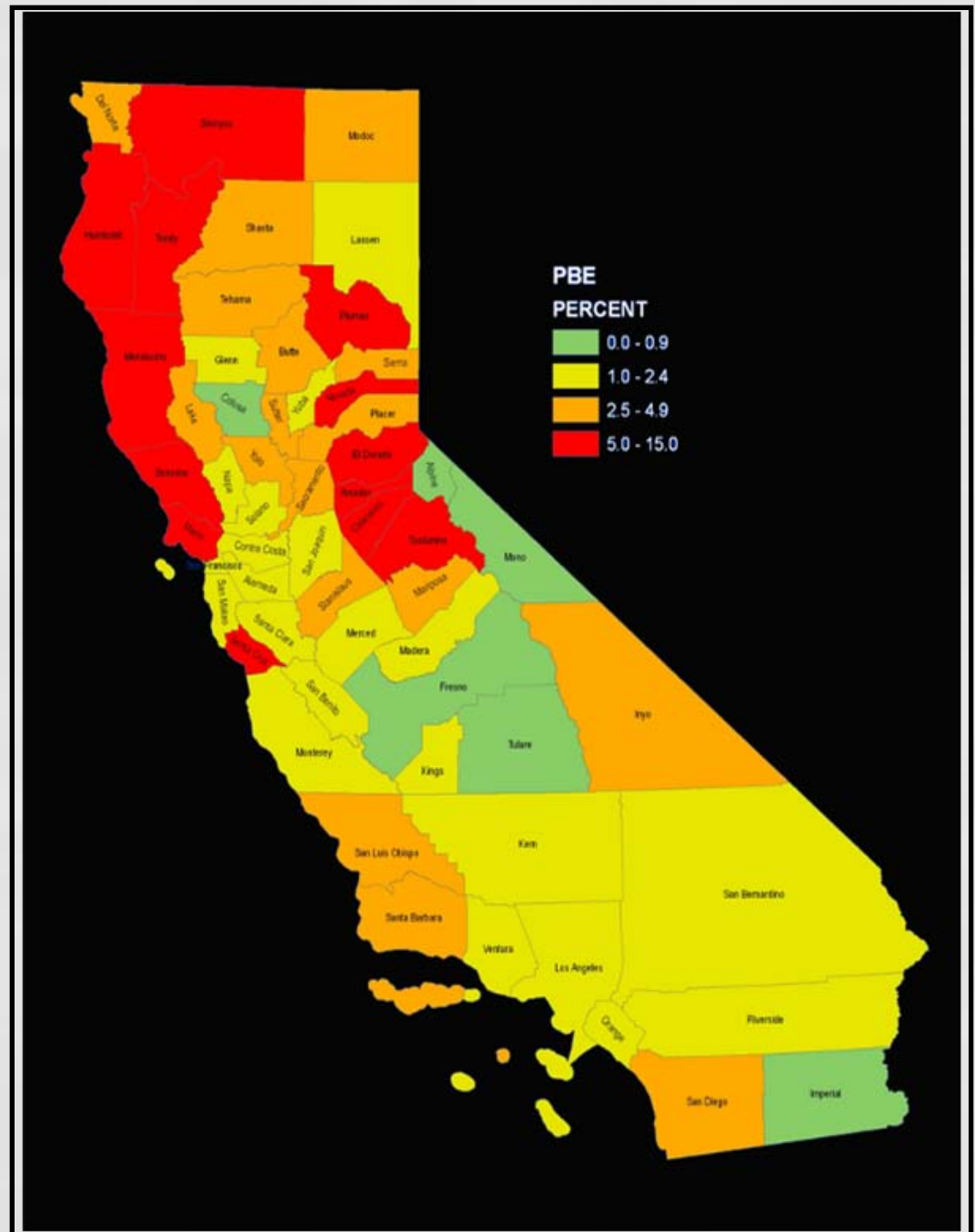
- Since 2008-09 personal belief exemptions trending upward in California
- Measles outbreaks and pertussis epidemic
- Rapid rise of misinformation about vaccines
- CIC PBE Task Force developed in 2010

Task Force Recommendations:

- Educational Interventions
 - Schools
 - Physicians
 - Public
- Legislation

California's PBE Numbers (2010)

- *25% increase over previous 2 yrs*
- *Total kindergarten entrants w/ PBE 2.33%*
- *Range of 0.1% to 18%*
- *30% Counties > 5%*



Exemptions to Immunizations as Required by California School Immunization Law

***7. PERSONAL BELIEFS EXEMPTION:** If immunization is against your religious or personal beliefs, you will be asked to sign an affidavit at the time of registration. Your child will then be exempt from the immunization requirements.

***NOTE:** If your child is exempt because of 1, 2, or 7 above, and there is a disease outbreak, the school may be ordered by the Health Department to temporarily exclude your child for his/her protection.

The California Health and Safety Code, Division 105, Part 2, Chapter 1, Sections 120325-120380 establishes the immunizations required and exemptions. Regulations to implement the law are contained in the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Division 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 8, 6000-6075.

Legislative Remedies

Change in statute needed to redirect upward trend in PBE's

- Education efforts are likely not enough
- Current process for claiming PBE more convenient for some than getting child immunized
- Continued increase in PBE's will at some point, impact herd immunity

Timing and Support

Due to legislative cycle, many stakeholders recommended waiting until 2013

However,

- Several legislators were ready now
- PBE legislation in other states
- Interest and momentum in the media and on social networks

Preparation

- Message Development
- Partnership Development – Bill sponsors
- Building network of support
- Educating key participants
- Media
- Anti-Vaccine groups are organized

Assembly Bill – 2109

- Will require a healthcare provider signature to document vaccination counseling
- Does not place barriers to obtaining an exemption
- Protects parents rights to be fully informed about recommended vaccinations
- Similar to Washington State Law

Key Points

- A majority of parents believe immunizations are important
- Parent's questions are important and they deserve to have reliable information to support the healthcare decisions
- Children who are exempted from vaccine are at significant risk for diseases
- Diseases can spread quickly
- Public health officials want to ensure that requests for exemptions from immunization are based on conviction, not convenience.

Key Points - continued

- Proposed changes would not take away a parent's right to exempt their child
- Proposed changes would not impact exemptions for medical reasons or religious beliefs.
- Proposed changes would not change current vaccine recommendations for school or child care entry.
- There are numerous surveillance systems that monitor vaccine safety and effectiveness of vaccines.

A Public Health Issue

- Legislative activity
 - Including Kansas, South Dakota, Vermont, Arizona
- Measles Outbreaks
 - Europe, Asia, Super Bowl
- Speaking Up for Public Health and Immunizations
 - Physicians and healthcare providers as trusted sources of information
 - Renewing trust in vaccines

Speak Up





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**CA IZ Coalition**
@ImmunizeCa California
A public-private partnership of leaders throughout California and the US, dedicated to achieving and maintaining full immunization for all Californians.
<http://www.immunizeca.org>

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**ImmunizeCa** CA IZ Coalition
RT @vaccineupdates: Some parents seek out chickenpox despite vaccine. "She loves chickens. She's really excited," bit.ly/wYpdA
9 hours ago

**ImmunizeCa** CA IZ Coalition
Still time to register for next VICNetwork webinar on Wed, Feb 29
ow.ly/9izx1 'virtual seats' still available, but filling fast
9 hours ago

**ImmunizeCa** CA IZ Coalition
@Bill Moyers Essay: Are Immunization Exemptions Fair to All?
ow.ly/9izps excellent piece
9 hours ago

**VaccinesToday** VaccinesToday
After #polio, #India aims to eradicate #measles: Health Minister
[health.india.com/news/after-pol...](http://health.india.com/news/after-polio)
12 hours ago
Retweeted by ImmunizeCa

**ImmunizeCa** CA IZ Coalition
Contagion and the Conflict Between Religious Beliefs and Immunization
ow.ly/9iE44 - do children have to die before change occurs?
23 hours ago

**ImmunizeCa** CA IZ Coalition
Thank you @ PedNews for the RT's and other great info
26 Feb

**ImmunizeCa** CA IZ Coalition
RT @vaccineupdates: Some parents seek out chickenpox despite vaccine. "She loves chickens. She's really excited," bit.ly/wYpdA
26 Feb

 About @ImmunizeCa

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On-line Communications

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California Immunization Coalition Vaccine Booster - March 2011

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New Binational IZ Resource
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If you are not sure which legislator represents the districts in which your centers are, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov, click Your Legislator, and input the zip code of your center.

2011 California Immunization Coalition Summit - Immunization: A Lifetime Connection Don't Delay - Register Today!

April 18, 2011
Los Angeles, CA

2011 CALIFORNIA IMMUNIZATION COALITION SUMMIT
Immunizations: A Lifetime Connection

The 2011 Summit, **Immunization: A Lifetime Connection**, will be held April 18 in Los Angeles at the California Endowment Conference Center. The CIC Summit is a unique opportunity to meet with California's immunization leaders and advocates. The Summit will feature speakers, expert panels, and workshops on crucial immunization issues.

Join us and strengthen your partnerships; explore new ways to promote immunizations across the lifespan; share strategies for implementing new policies, requirements and recommendations; and increase your knowledge of resources for communicating about immunizations. **Registration for the one-day Summit is \$95 and CME/CEUs are available for \$20.**

Visit our website at www.immunizeca.org for registration and lodging information, the agenda, and other important details.

We look forward to seeing you April 18 in Los Angeles!

**CALIFORNIA IMMUNIZATION COALITION**

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**Our Mission**
The California Immunization Coalition is a public-private partnership dedicated to achieving and maintaining full immunization protection for all Californians to promote health and prevent serious illness.

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CIC Upcoming Events
February 29, 2012
[VIC Network Webinar](#) at 11:00 am
April 22, 2012
[CIC Summit Pre-Conf Workshop](#) at 3:00 pm
April 23, 2012
[CIC Summit](#) at 8:00 am

**2012 CALIFORNIA IMMUNIZATION COALITION SUMMIT**
Completing the Circle:
Ensuring Adult & Adolescent Vaccination for All

Sign up for Using Social Media to Expand Your Reach and Build a Movement. The workshop will take place on **Sunday, April 22, 2012 from 3:00 pm to 4:30pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Sacramento.**



Dawn Crawford

We are pleased to announce that Dawn Crawford, Social Media and Marketing Consultant for BC/DC Ideas will be in Sacramento on Sunday, April 22 to conduct a pre-summit workshop that will provide attendees with practical tips and dazzling twists on how we as public health professionals and advocates can use social media to promote immunizations and build a network of support for public health and science based medicine. Cost for the workshop is only \$15.00. [You can register here.](#)

View and share personal stories of vaccine preventable diseases by clicking on the graphic below.

Find us on Facebook



Click the image below to access Flu resources such as template messages in English and Spanish and talking points.



Vaccine Booster


Favorites
[My Best Shot](#) The website is designed for 11-and 12-year-olds, teaches preteens about the importance of immunizations and features videos, a game, and place for kids to post their immunization questions.
[Shot by Shot: Stories of Vaccine Preventable Diseases \(SBS\) Educators](#)

Internet



www.vicnetwork.org

Find us on Facebook and
Twitter!



*The VICNetwork is a project of the National Public Health Information Coalition
and the California Immunization Coalition, funded through a cooperative agreement with the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

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