

# Empowering School Nurses to Provide Vaccine Education under CA AB2109

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## AB 2109

- 2109 (Pan) took effect on January 1, 2014.
- Requires a parent or guardian seeking a personal belief exemption (PBE) for their child to obtain a document signed by themselves and a licensed health care practitioner. (*Unless religious beliefs preclude education*).
- Practitioner to inform parent of benefits/risks of immunization & health risks of disease.
- Ensures that decision not to immunize is an informed one, while preserving parent/guardians option to exempt child from immunizations.

## Who can sign?


- Per the law, the following practitioners may sign the AB2109 exemption form:
  - Medical Doctor (MD)
  - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
  - Nurse practitioner (NP) authorized to furnish drugs
  - Physician assistant (PA) authorized to administer or provide medication
  - Naturopathic doctor authorized to furnish or order drugs under a physician and surgeon's supervision
  - **Credentialed school nurse** (a Preliminary or Clear credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing).

## What about those nurses?

- Discussions with credentialed school nurses in Orange County revealed:
  - That they were unsure of the requirements associated with AB2109.
  - They often expressed that they felt inadequately prepared to provide the information required by the law.

## The ABCs of AB2109!

- Community partners collaborated to create a half-day seminar targeting school nurses regarding the background, issues and resources to address vaccine hesitancy and PBEs, as well as to explain the regulations of AB2109 and how to implement this new law.
- Partners included:
  - Orange County Immunization Coalition
  - Orange County Health Care Agency
  - Orange County Department of Education
  - American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter 4
- Held at CHOC Children's Hospital on November 8, 2013.



In partnership with The Orange County Department of Education  
and The Orange County Immunization Coalition

**The ABC's of AB2109**  
*"How to speak to hesitant parents  
regarding immunization"*

Friday, November 8, 2013  
7:30 am Continental Breakfast  
8:00 am - 11:00 am



CHOC Children's Hospital, Wade Center  
1201 W. La Veta Ave  
Orange, CA 92868

**Who should attend**  
Designed for School Nurses and other health care professionals (nurses, physician assistants, physicians, etc.) who will be responsible for implementing AB 2109 (Pan), effective January 1, 2014. This bill requires that the health care practitioner has informed the parent/guardian of the benefits and risks of the immunization, as well as the health risks of the diseases that a child could contract.

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 14988 for 3 contact hours.

**Speakers**  
Jasjit Singh, MD, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, CHOC Children's Hospital  
David Núñez, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Family Health Division Orange County Health Care Agency  
Marc Lerner, MD, Medical Officer, Orange County Department of Education

**Registration Information**  
Go to [www.choc.org/events](http://www.choc.org/events) to register or call Susan Schwamb 714-509-4363. Cancellations in writing to [sschwamb@choc.org](mailto:sschwamb@choc.org) prior to October 8, 2013 will be refunded. Cost is \$20. No refunds will be offered after October 8, 2013. Substitutions will be accepted.

## Learning Objectives

- To give providers, specifically school nurses, the history and background to effectively educate parents regarding the goals of school vaccination programs.
- To provide school nurses the data and resources to effectively address the concerns of vaccine hesitant parents.
- To provide specific local vaccination coverage data and suggest successful communication methods.

## Presentations Included:

- **Vaccine Legislation and School Immunizations**  
*Dr. Marc Lerner*  
*Medical Officer, Orange County Department of Education*
- **Suggested Strategies and Approaches to Address Parental Vaccine Hesitancy**  
*Dr. David Nunez*  
*Family Health Medical Director, Orange County Health Care Agency*
- **Understanding the Concerns of Vaccine Hesitant Parents**  
*Dr. Jasjit Singh*  
*Associate Director, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, CHOC Children's Hospital*

## Getting the Word Out

- The event was advertised via the various network partnerships.
  - Orange County Department of Education Health and Wellness Website
  - Distributed via school nurse/school administrator listservs
  - CHOC Children's website and via resident meetings
  - Orange County Immunization Coalition Meetings and listserv
  - Any relevant meetings of school nurses

## Conference Content Highlights

### *Vaccine Legislation and School Immunizations*

*Dr. Marc Lerner*

- History of vaccines/vaccine programs
- Vaccine refusal data
- Description of the specifics of AB2109
  - Who can complete?
  - What must the form contain?
  - Who is affected by this new law?

## Conference Content Highlights

### *Understanding the concerns of Vaccine Hesitant Parents*

*Dr. Jasjit Singh*

- Factors leading to vaccine safety concern in community, and impact on current coverage rates
- Most common vaccine safety concerns of parents
- Formulate talking points to address hesitant parents
- Provide resources to address vaccines safety concerns

## Conference Content Highlights

### *AB2109 and Vaccine Hesitancy – Suggested Strategies*

*Dr. David Nunez*

- Local school district data on PBEs at Kindergarten enrollment
- Vaccine Refusal
  - Common concerns
  - Who typically refuses
  - Sources of influence
- Suggested Approaches
  - Recognize complex underpinnings
  - Stages of behavior change
  - Communication skills (helpful & unhelpful)
  - Ask about reasons for hesitancy/refusal – acknowledge
  - Provide info on benefits vs. risks & resources

## Results

- Attendance was twice what was initially expected
  - 70 Registered Nurses
  - 10 physicians
  - 15 “others”
    - 2 school staff
    - 1 parent
    - 5 health educators
- Post conference evaluation was sent out via SurveyMonkey approximately one week after event
  - 39% response rate
  - 97% rated the conference “good” or “excellent”

## Results

- Comments from seminar attendees –
  - This conference was excellent. It was so informative and the presenters were very helpful in providing relevant information and how to talk with hesitant parents regarding immunizations.
  - Excellent presentation and materials for resource.
  - Would be helpful to have specific talking points to share with parents regarding....an informed consent document that could be shared with parents so that all parents are receiving same information.
  - I was wondering if you were taking this presentation on the road.
  - Very helpful. Thank you!! Appreciate all the support CHOC has provided school nurses.

## AB2109 Resources

- Orange County Department of Education; Health and Wellness website [www.ocde.us/health](http://www.ocde.us/health)
  - AB2109 Resource page; includes presentations
- Shotsforschools.org
  - Personal Belief Exemption Information and Resources (AB 2109):
    - FAQs / Form (other languages) / Resources / Press Release / Archived Webinar / PBE Form Signature Calculator / Search PBE Rates by School

## Thank you!

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