Immunization Update regarding Senate Bill 277

On June 30, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a bill that says parents can no longer refuse to vaccinate their children in public or private schools based on their personal/religious beliefs.

Effective January 1, 2016, parents/guardians of students in any school or child-care facility will no longer be allowed to submit a personal/religious belief exemption for a currently-required vaccine.

Children who have personal/religious belief exemptions to vaccinations signed prior to January 1, 2016 are subject to the new law when they reach a vaccination checkpoint.

Vaccination Checkpoints are:
- For a student in a child care facility, a previously-filed personal belief exemption will be valid until the start of kindergarten (including transitional kindergarten).
- For a student in 1st-6th grade, a previously-filed personal belief exemption will be valid until the start of 7th grade.

For a student currently enrolled in MDUSD, in grades 8 - 12, a previously-filed personal belief exemption will continue to be valid until they complete their high school education within MDUSD.

A student who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will continue to receive all necessary services identified in their IEP regardless of their vaccination status. However, parents or guardians must continue to provide immunization records for these students to their schools, and schools must continue to maintain and report records of immunizations that have been received for these students.

For Frequently Asked Questions go to http://www.shotsforschool.org/laws/sb277faq/