



Annotated bibliographies:

California Immunization Handbook: School and Child Care Immunization Requirements for Schools and Child Care Programs. Seventh Edition. July 2003. Web. 10 Oct. 2010.

This handbook is the current manual for faculty and staff of schools and child care centers in California. This source is intended to outline the steps that these facilities must take to implement vaccination requirements, such as how to obtain a child's personal immunization information, and how to use the Blue Cards to collect information. The manual also describes how to check if immunization requirements have been met for individual students and gives explanations of specific exemption practices and policies. The manual also extensively talks about how to follow up with parents whose children have been admitted to schools or child care centers "on condition" that they will meet the immunization requirements. Especially pertinent to my individual research topic is the information on the medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions and how they can be obtained and validated. Lastly, the handbook summarized consequences for students who did not have updated immunizations.

This resource was useful and relevant to my topic of research because it gave detailed information about immunization exemptions, the required schedule of immunization, and consequences for non-compliance. The Handbook was a reliable primary source that was precise and well organized. Although I was not using it as a reference to implement immunization, I thought that the "Frequently Asked Questions" section in the Appendix was a necessary tool for school and child care administrators to answer questions from employees or parents. This source did not appear to have any obvious weaknesses, but because the intended audience is school



and child care faculty and staff, some of the wording may be confusing for parents who read the manual.

“Recommendations and Guidelines: 2010 Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0-6 Years, 7-18 Years, and “Catch- Up” Schedule.”
Vaccines and Immunizations. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web. 9 Sept. 2010.

This subsection of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website provides detailed charts of recommended immunization schedules for children as well as adults. The four charts provided on the page identify specific vaccinations that need to be given during certain age ranges in a person’s life (0-6 years, 7-18 years, adult vaccination schedules, and “catch- up schedules). The tables provide information about how many doses are to be given to a child of each vaccine as well. Underneath each chart is a list that contains more specific dosage information as well as the minimum and maximum age requirements for each vaccination. This information is organized according to each required vaccination and provides information intended for physician use about each respective vaccine.

The tables given in this website are useful as a guideline to determine if individual states are adhering to national immunization requirements and the effects of deviations in immunization practices. For example, by comparing the national charts to tables from individual states, researchers can determine if increased levels of preventable illness in some areas is a result of not adhering to national immunization standards. The information contained in the tables helps answer questions about which vaccines are required and when, one of the main questions that I am seeking to answer. I thought that the charts were well organized and easy to comprehend. The explanations at the bottom of each table gives more details about how much of each vaccine is



administered per dose. The article is intended for physicians, but seemed more useful to my area of research than other charts that were created specifically for parents to view.

“State Vaccine Requirements.” National Vaccine Information Center. Web. 27 Sept. 2010.

The National Vaccine Information Center is an organization dedicated to giving parents the information necessary to make informed decisions about vaccinations. On their website they have a section specifically dedicated to vaccine requirements and laws. The link for the State Vaccination Requirements takes viewers to a map of the United States that has symbols pertaining to the type of exemption allowed in each state. When a state is selected, the page navigates away from the map and brings up a screen that has specific rules from the Department of Health for the state in question. The information contains specific codes and sections pertaining to immunizations taken directly from the legislation of individual states. Specific requirements for parental responsibility to vaccinate children, which diseases need to be vaccinated against, immunization schedules, specific exemptions and the documents needed to validate immunization exemptions are listed as well. The site also notes who takes authority for verifying vaccinations and creating immunization policies within each state.

This resource was helpful in my specific area of study because it gave detailed accounts about exemptions and what state departments of health are required to do by law in the case of non-compliance. This site was also unique in that it provides information about who is in charge of regulating a state’s vaccination policies and how to contact that person if necessary. The page outlines Certificates of Immunization and exact requirements for children entering school. I found this website to be very useful



to determine what entire states were requiring instead of looking at what local areas were requiring. I liked that the site provided inserts of actual legislation because I felt that the information had not been tampered with others' opinions or been falsified in any way. This information looked completely objective and appeared to be solely for the purpose of providing parents with information pertinent to individual states.

However, the National Vaccine Information Center homepage appeared to have an anti- vaccination tone and included immunization contamination news, multiple articles on current vaccine controversies, and a memorial dedicated to children injured or deceased due to immunizations. The website left me with conflicting views on the purpose and validity of the website. Although I felt comfortable with the information that I obtained from the Vaccine Requirements section of the site, I am cautious to use pictures or other information from the website as reliable immunization information.

“Statistics and Surveillance: School and Childcare Vaccination Surveys. Results for Childcare, Kindergarten and Middle School.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Web. 4 May 2009.

This website is part of the Vaccinations and Immunizations section of the Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control and Prevention website. In the site, there is a section that provides vaccination information about the fifty states, as well as six cities, and eight territories. The Grantee Immunization Information Overview for each state provides reports based on surveys from schools and childcare centers in each respective state that have been compiled into a comprehensive listing of immunization practices, requirements and statistics for each respective grantee. Each grantee has annual progress reports of vaccinations for children entering kindergarten and middle school and shows the percentage of children



who have been vaccinated in accordance with their state requirements. Each report contains school entry immunization requirements for individual grantees as well as college immunization requirements for each grantee. Also included in each report is a list of the types of exemptions allowed, and consequences for children who do not have vaccination records or exemption forms.

This resource is very useful because it provides a single location for immunization requirements and other information for each state. Each report is formatted in the same way making comparison between practices of individual states really easy. This resource helped me define what information was most important for national comparisons of vaccine requirements and immunization compliance. Information contained in each report was easy to read, easy to locate, and concise in its findings. It was useful that vaccination policies for kindergarten, middle school, and college were all separated into individual sections instead of being lumped together into one big table. Although the concise nature of each report was useful for a quick reference, I found that I had to do supplemental research regarding immunization exemptions to find out more details about how exemption is obtained and the specific definition of each category of exemption. I also found that although the title of the website included childcare, there was not a lot of information in the reports that defined specific requirements for childcare centers. Lastly, because reports were all based on surveys of schools, self reporting of vaccination practices may be inaccurate and some schools may not have participated in the study.

“Vaccine Exemption Forms Online- by State or Country.” The Center for Unhindered Living. Web. 28 Sept. 2010.



The Center for Unhindered Living provides a website that gives immunization forms for most states online so that parents can easily access the information and print forms they need. Each state is listed individually, and a link is provided for each that takes the viewer to the immunization form. Links are also provided to other countries, such as Canada and Australia. Additionally, some states have more information listed than just a link to the immunization exemption form. For example, the section for Alabama contains an excerpt from the Code of Alabama, Section 16-30-5 detailing how to go about acquiring immunization exemption. This site is useful in the acquisition of immunization exemption information because it provided links that I may not have otherwise found.

Although the website itself does not have a lot of information that can be directly used to gather research information, the assistance it provided me in finding other sources was invaluable. The site was relevant to my research because it narrowed the search for information only about exemption requirements. I also thought it was interesting because it provided links in Spanish for some states that have a large Spanish speaking population such as Arizona. The site however was weak in that it did not provide the information all on one page. Instead the viewer has to navigate away to see each form, which made information acquisition inconvenient. The website is also somewhat incomplete because it was missing links to immunization forms for some states. Information on this website was necessary to help me find more information about what individual states required for children to be exempt from immunization as well as make comparisons between states in the documentation processes of obtaining exemption.