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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Immunizations (shots) are very important for the health of your child, but keeping track of all of your child's shots can be hard. This letter is to let you know that there is a way that doctors can keep track of their patients shot records. It is called the California Immunization Registry. The registry is a computerized system that doctors put information into, such as the type and dates of shots they give their patients. The Alliance will start sharing your child's shot records with the registry on November 1st, 2008.

How does this help me and my child?

- Helps to make sure that your child doesn't miss any shots or get too many shots
- Reminds you when your child needs shots
- Lets you get a new copy of your child's shot record from the doctor quickly

What is the information used for?

- To help decide what shots your child needs
- To remind you when a shot is due

What information can be shared?

- Your name and your child's name
- Your address and phone number
- Your child's date of birth
- Shots your child has received and if your child has ever had a serious reaction to a shot

Who can see the information?

Schools, child care centers and Women Infants & Children programs, (WIC), may use the registry to make sure that children have all of the shots needed to start child care or school.

Only doctors, nurses, health plans and public health departments may see a child's address or phone number in the registry. Other people cannot see a child's address or phone number. The information in the registry is protected like other private medical information. The information will not be shared with immigration.

Your rights as a parent or guardian:

You have the right to refuse to share any of this information now or at any time. If you refuse, it will not affect your child's eligibility for medical services. **If you DO want your child's records shared in the registry, you don't have to do anything.**

If you do not want your child's shot records shared in the registry, call the Alliance at 1-800-700-3874 x 5505.