

Countywide Services Agency

Department of  
Health and Human Services

Division of Public Health

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County Health Officer



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## County of Sacramento

December 17, 2010

Dear Colleague,

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California during 2010. To date this year, 9 infants have died from pertussis in the state. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that all Californians 10 years and older receive a booster shot against pertussis. The currently available preparation is the tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap). Moreover, Assembly Bill 354, now chaptered into California law, requires students to be immunized against pertussis unless there is a personal belief or a medical exemption.

**For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school. This requirement:**

- Begins July 1, 2011.
- Will be met by receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 7th birthday.
- Applies to all public and private schools.
- Does not affect students enrolled in summer school.

**Beginning July 1, 2012, and beyond, all students entering the 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot on or after the 7th birthday.**

Next school year tens of thousands of Sacramento junior and senior high school students will require this vaccine. Please utilize every opportunity to provide a Tdap booster shot to those patients who have not yet received it (adolescents and adults 10 years and older) in order to protect against the current threat and to meet the forthcoming school requirement. Your patients entering 7th through 12th grade in 2011-2012 will need proof of this immunization. Don't forget to mark it clearly on the California Immunization Record (yellow card) and tell the parents to take it to their child's school for documentation.

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) is directly accessed by many schools to check student immunization records. We encourage you to join CAIR to help meet the new Tdap booster shot requirement. In Sacramento County call (916) 447-7063 ext.350 to join the registry.

Updates on implementing this new law and information on pertussis are posted at [www.getimmunizedca.org](http://www.getimmunizedca.org).

Thank you for everything you do to help keep our community healthy.

Sincerely,

Glennah Trochet M.D.  
Sacramento County Health Officer