

School Immunization Requirement for Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Attention: Parents of Incoming Students 6th grade students

Assembly Bill 354 was chaptered into California law on September 29, 2010. **This new bill requires all students entering 7th Grade to be immunized against pertussis (whooping cough).** Each student will need to submit proof of their Tdap* booster **before** starting school in the Fall of 2013. This requirement applies to both private and public schools and begins July 1, 2011.



The school is requesting that **you submit a copy of your child's immunization record to the school office. Here are the actions for you to take, as soon as possible, this school year.**

Check with your physician or medical provider:

1. If your child has recently received the Tdap booster vaccine, obtain and submit proof of immunization to the school office now.
2. If your child needs to receive the Tdap booster, **schedule an appointment with the provider and submit proof of immunization afterward to the school office.**
3. If your child has a medical contraindication to pertussis vaccination, submit a completed and signed physician waiver. The form is available at your school office.

This new immunization requirement is intended to help reduce the spread of pertussis (whooping cough) disease among California's youth and as a means of protecting our most vulnerable, infants up to one year olds. In recent years, California, as well as the rest of the U.S., has seen an increase in the number of whooping cough cases. In 2010, California experienced the most reported cases in over 60 years.

If you have questions or want to fax immunization requirement, please contact your school office at 458-5970 or via fax at 458-5973.

Further information can also be found on the California Department of Public Health website at <http://www.getimmunizedca.org>

*Tdap = Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine