

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California, and many students have had to miss school because they were sick.

To help protect your children and others from whooping cough, a new California law now requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough. Students who do not have proof of receiving a **Tdap booster shot** will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school. (The tetanus-diphtheria booster shot, Td, will not meet the requirement.)

For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.

In 2012-13 and future school years, only students entering 7th grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.

Your child will be considered to have met the new school requirement with proof of getting a dose of Tdap on or after their 7th birthday. However the California Department of Public Health recommends that children receive Tdap on or after their 10th birthday to provide better protection throughout their adolescent years.

We want to make sure your child starts school on time. We urge you to:

1. Get your child's Tdap shot now.

A large number of students need a Tdap shot before the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your health care provider or go to the local Public Health Immunization Clinic located at 820 Scenic Drive, Modesto and avoid the back to school rush.

Public Health Clinic hours are:

- **Monday-Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.**
- **Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Medi-Cal is accepted. There is a \$10 charge for the Tdap vaccine, however no child is denied for inability to pay.

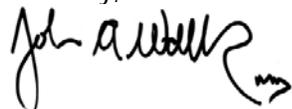
2. Bring a copy of the proof of the immunization to the school as soon as possible.

Be sure to keep the written proof of your child's Tdap booster shot in a safe place. Your child will need to provide proof of immunization in order to start school.

A Personal Beliefs Exemption may be signed by a parent/guardian, although this is not recommended. Students with Personal Beliefs Exemptions for Tdap may be excluded from attending school for prolonged periods during each outbreak of pertussis or after each exposure to someone with pertussis. (17CCR S6060)

If you have any questions, please contact _____ at _____.

Sincerely,



John A. Walker, MD
Stanislaus County Public Health Officer



Tom Changnon
Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools