

Early Health Alert
Pertussis Immunization Requirements for Students

To Parents/Guardians of 7th-12th Grade Students:

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California during 2010. The California Department of Public Health recommends that all Californians 10 years and older receive a booster shot against pertussis and tetanus (also known as "Tdap:")
Moreover, Assembly Bill 354, now chaptered into California law, requires students to be immunized against pertussis.

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

- Begins July 1, 2011.
- Can be met by receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10th birthday
- Parent may sign a personal belief exemption (waiver) at the school office.
- Students who do not meet this requirement will be excluded from school.

Beginning July 1, 2012, and beyond, all students entering the 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school.

Pertussis is widespread. If your child 10 years and older has not yet received the Tdap pertussis booster shot, please contact your doctor or health department. Getting a booster shot now will protect you child against the ongoing threat of pertussis and meet the requirements that begin in the 2011-12 school year.

If you plan to visit relatives with infants during the holidays, it is highly recommended to have your family vaccinated prior to the family gatherings.

Contact your family health provider or ***Trinity County Health Department*** (530-623-8209 OR 1-800-766-6147) for an appointment or more information about the Pertussis Vaccination.

Sincerely,

Mary Nixon, RN - Trinity County School Nurse