State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

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**EARLY ALERT TO SCHOOLS**
**Assembly Bill 354 Becomes Law**
**2011 Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Immunization Requirements for Students**
**September 30, 2010**

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 (also known as "Tdap"[1]). Moreover, Assembly Bill 354, now chaptered into California law, requires students to be immunized against pertussis[2]:

**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.
- Can be met by receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10th 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 before starting school.

Starting now, please use your school websites, newsletters, report card messages, and other communications to send the following information:

> *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 your child against the ongoing threat of pertussis and meet a new school requirement that begins in the 2011-12 school year (California law - Assembly Bill 354).*
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> *Adults are also advised to get a pertussis booster shot, if they haven't already, to protect themselves, their families, and their students.*

Updates on implementing this new law will be posted later in the 2010-2011 school year at www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx, which currently has general information about pertussis disease and immunization.

1 "Tdap" = Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine.
2 Exemptions permitted for verified medical conditions or personal beliefs.

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