



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: José A. Álvarez (619) 515-6635
(619) 964-1526 cell

TENS OF THOUSANDS OF 7th-12th GRADERS STILL NEED Tdap PROOF *Vaccination Clinics Continue to Help Students Meet Booster Shot Requirement*

WHAT: County health and school officials will announce how many students still need to be vaccinated or provide proof to their schools that they have received the pertussis booster shot. Parents will be encouraged to vaccinate their 7th-12th graders or they won't be allowed in school. No proof, no school!

Officials will also announce several vaccination clinics to help parents meet the new requirement to register for school and encourage them to vaccinate their children now to avoid long lines.

WHO: **Wilma Wooten**, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer
Bill Kowba, Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District
Ralf Swenson, Superintendent, Grossmont Union High School District
Adriana Andrade, parent who inadvertently infected her two children with whooping cough

WHEN: **Friday, August 19, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

WHERE: **County Public Health Center**
5055 Ruffin Road, San Diego

WHY: A new state law requires all 7th through 12th graders—in public and private schools—to show proof of having received the pertussis booster shot, or Tdap, in order to enroll in school. AB 354 went into effect July 1.

The law was approved as a result of last year's pertussis epidemic, which established new records of whooping cough cases across the state, including San Diego County where 1,144 cases were reported. This year, 326 pertussis cases have been reported to date.

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that can spread quickly and can be deadly. In 2010, two local infants died from complications from the disease.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children get one dose of DTaP vaccine at the following ages: 2 months; 4 months; 6 months; 15 to 18 months; and 4 to 6 years. The Tdap booster shot is recommended for adolescents age 11 to 18 years, preferably administered at age 11 to 12 years.

A typical case of pertussis in children and adults starts with a cough and runny nose for one to two weeks, followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that sometimes end with a whooping sound. Fever, if present, is usually mild. The disease is treatable with antibiotics.

For more information, call the HHS Immunization Branch at (866) 358-2966, or visit www.sdiz.org.

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COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 208 • SAN DIEGO, CA 92101-2472