



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
April 6, 2011

CONTACT: Yvette Urrea Moe (619) 595-4632

PERTUSSIS CASES REPORTED IN SCHOOLS *Whooping Cough Cases Increase by Five in Region*

Five confirmed pertussis cases in which others may have been exposed to the disease were reported in schools this past week, according to the County Health and Human Services Agency.

The number of whooping cough cases, as the disease is commonly known, increased by five cases to 165 for the region this year. See second page for specific school information.

“Young children are most at risk for complications from pertussis. Parents can protect their children by ensuring that they have all the recommended doses of the pertussis vaccine, including the booster shot,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer.

Last year, there were a record 1,144 pertussis cases in the county. Two of the cases resulted in infant deaths.

Residents can get vaccinated at their primary care doctor or at an HHSA Public Health Center if they don't have a regular healthcare provider.

The California Department of Public Health recommends a pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap) for everyone 10 years or older who has not yet received it, especially women of childbearing age, before, during, or immediately after pregnancy; and other people, including household contacts, caregivers, and health care workers, who have contact with pregnant women or infants. Children 7-9 years of age who did not receive all of their routine childhood shots are recommended to receive a Tdap booster dose.

Beginning July 1, all students entering 7th through 12th grades in both public and private schools must show proof that they have had a Tdap booster shot before they can start school. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that children receive a booster shot of Tdap vaccine at 11-12 yrs.

The CDC also 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.

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 about whooping cough, please call the HHSA Immunization Branch at (866) 358-2966, or visit the web site at www.sdiz.org.

FOLLOW THE [COUNTY](#) ON [TWITTER](#), [FACEBOOK](#) AND [YOUTUBE](#)

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



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

This week's new pertussis cases where there is a potential for public exposure are:

- A 3-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Turtleback Elementary Preschool in the Poway Unified School District. Contact: Sharon Raffer (858) 521-2800 ext.2707.
- A 5-year-old who was not up-to-date on immunizations and attends Newbridge School in Poway. Contact: Steve Mayo (858) 679-5744.
- A 10-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Maria Montessori School in San Diego. Contact: Betty Bailey (858) 270-9350.
- A 13-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Calvary Christian School in Vista. Contact: Jess Hetherington (760) 724-4590.
- A 13-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Classical Academy in Escondido. Contact: Jonelle Godfrey (760) 546-0101.

###

FOLLOW THE [COUNTY](#) ON [TWITTER](#), [FACEBOOK](#) AND [YOUTUBE](#)

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