



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **PERTUSSIS ACTIVITY CONTINUES TO INCREASE** *Vaccination, Booster Shot Best Defense*

Thirteen new pertussis cases where other children may have been exposed were reported this week, according to County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) officials today.

There have been 631 confirmed cases of pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, reported in 2010. There were 143 cases in all of 2009 and the previous high for the county was 371 cases in 2005.

“People should visit their primary care physician for their immunizations or booster shots,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. “If a person does not have a primary care physician he or she can visit one of our County’s Public Health Centers to get vaccinated.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 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 CDC also recommends that children receive a booster shot of Tdap vaccine at 10-11 yrs. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends an adolescent-adult 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.

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 toll-free at (866) 358-2966, or visit the web site at [www.sdiz.org](http://www.sdiz.org).

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

- A 4-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Baldwin Academy Preschool in Pacific Beach. Contact: Suzie Smiser (858) 270-5995.
- A 5-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Calvary Christian Academy in Chula Vista. Contact: Angelica Hernandez (619) 591-2260.
- A 6-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Fletcher Hills Elementary School in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. David Kinzel 9619) 668-5700 ext. 6207.
- A 7-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Fletcher Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- An 11-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends San Marcos Middle School in the San Marcos Unified School District. Contact: Dana Roderick (760) 752-1294.
- A 13-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Bonita Vista Middle School in the Sweetwater Union High School District. Contact: Lillian Leopold (619) 691-5578.
- A 13-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations attends Perkins Elementary in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- A 13-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations attends Bell Middle School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- A 13-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Oak Crest Middle School in the San Dieguito School District. Contact: Bruce Cochrane (760) 753-6491 ext. 5619.
- A 15-year-old who was not up-to-date on immunizations and attends Steele Canyon High School in Spring Valley. Contact: Jeff Kover (619) 660-3523.
- A 16-year-old who was not up-to-date on immunizations and attends Del Norte High School in the Poway Unified School District. Contact: Sharon Raffer (858) 521-2707.
- A 17-year-old who was not up-to-date on immunizations and attends Cathedral Catholic High School in Del Mar. Contact: Mike Deely (858) 523-4009.
- A 17-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends West View High School in the Poway Unified School District. Contact: Sharon Raffer (858) 521-2707.