



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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PERTUSSIS CASELOAD INCREASES *County Whooping Cough Cases Total is 931*

The County's total number of cases increased to 931 this week, prompting health officials to strongly urge residents to control the spread of pertussis with immunizations, the Health and Human Services Agency said today.

School districts reported 21 cases at 17 schools last week where other children were potentially exposed to pertussis, also called whooping cough.

Last year, San Diego County reported 143 confirmed cases of pertussis. The previous record year for cases was 2005 with 371 confirmed cases. Two infant deaths are among the cases this year.

"In response to the state whooping cough epidemic, the state recently passed a new law that will require a Tdap vaccine for students 10 years old and up. Previously, the booster shot was only a recommendation, but next year, children will need to have proof of the immunization before starting middle school," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County Public Health Officer. "The booster shot protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis."

Residents can get vaccinated by visiting their primary care doctor or stopping in an HHSA Public Health Center. The vaccine is covered by the State Medi-Cal program.

The 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 at (866) 358-2966, or visit the web site at www.sdiz.org.

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

- A 10-year-old who was not up-to-date on immunizations and an 11-year-old who was due for a booster shot who attend North Broadway Elementary School in the Escondido Union School District. Contact: Randy Garcia (760) 432-2247.
- A 2-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Kinderhouse Montessori Preschool in Rancho Bernardo. Contact: Jacqueline Chew (858) 605-9520.
- A 4-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Mission Elementary Pre-K in the Oceanside Unified School District. Contact: Steve Lombard (760) 966-4000.
- A 13-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Palm Middle School in the Lemon Grove School District. Contact: Ernest Anastos (619) 825-5609.
- An 8-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations, an 11-year-old who was due for a booster shot, and a 7-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attend Central Elementary School in the National School District. Contact Diana Chase (858) 966-7542.
- A 5-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Bobier Elementary School in the Vista Unified School District. Contact: Steve Hargrave (760) 726-2170.
- A 3-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Solana Beach Community Preschool. Contact: Joanne Tranchina (858) 755-7387.
- A 9-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Carrillo Elementary School in the San Marcos Unified School District. Contact: Dana Roderick (760) 752-1294.
- A 7-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Sage Elementary School in the Del Mar Union School District. Contact: Cara Schukoske (858) 755-9301.
- A 10-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Benchley-Weinberger Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- Two 3-year-olds who were up-to-date on immunizations and attend Scripps Montessori School. Contact: Ciara Concepcion (858) 566-3632.
- A 13-year-old who was due for a booster shot and attends Correia Middle School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- An 8-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Paradise Hills Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.
- An 8-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations who attends Chaparral Elementary School in the Poway Unified School District. Contact: Sharon Raffer (858) 521-2800.
- An 8-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations who attends Las Palmas Elementary School in the National School District. Contact: Diana Chase (858) 966-7542.
- A 9-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Twin Oaks Elementary School in the San Marcos Unified School District. Contact: Dana Roderick (760) 752-1294.
- A 10-year-old who was up-to-date on immunizations and attends Marvin Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District. Contact: Linda Zintz (619) 725-5568.