

## New Rule: Shots Before School

**All 7th Graders are now required to get a whooping cough shot before starting the school year.** Please call your doctor today!

**Whooping cough** (Pertussis) is a highly contagious bacterial illness spread by coughs and sneezes. People sick with pertussis have severe coughing attacks that can last for months. Vaccination is the best defense against whooping cough. Children need five doses of DTap (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis) or Tdap1 (Tetanus, Diphtheria, acellular Pertussis) by kindergarten (ages 4-6). **However, the immunity from the vaccine wears off over time and a DTaP/Tdap booster vaccine is now required for all students 7th-12th grade as of July 1, 2011 according to California law Assembly Bill 354.**

Beginning July 1, 2012 all students entering 7th grade will need proof of a DTaP/Ddap booster shot before starting school. This requirement:

- Will be met by receiving one dose of DTaP/Tdap vaccine on or after the 10th birthday.
- Applies to all public and private schools.
- Does not affect students enrolled in summer school.
- Exemptions permitted for verified medical conditions or personal beliefs.

California Department of Public Health is recommending that all Californians 10 years and older are immunized against pertussis, especially if they are in contact with infants.

If you have already had your student vaccinated, please make sure the school gets a copy of this immunization so that we can update our records. If you have any questions or concerns please call the School Health Tech or District Nurse at (661) 831-3503.

Thank You!