

# New Rule: Whooping Cough Shots Before School

**All 7th-12th Graders are now required to get a whooping cough shot before starting the school year.**

Healthy Students Make Good Learners

Immunizations aren't just for our youngest students. Staying healthy – and not spreading germs – is an important goal for all students.

New California state law, Assembly Bill 354, requires all students entering or advancing 7th through 12th grade next school year to show proof of a pertussis (whooping cough) booster shot (Tdap). **No whooping cough immunization, NO SCHOOL ENTRY. There is no grace period.** Pertussis (whooping cough) is an epidemic in California and is a highly contagious bacterial disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), since the 1980's, there has been an increase in the number of cases of pertussis, especially among teens (10-19 years of age) and babies younger than six months of age.

Now is the time to make sure our students get the proper immunizations so they are not excluded from school. Private physicians may administer the shot and are also available from public health clinics. After receiving the immunization, copy or bring the record to the School Office. Staff will make a note in the students' record and registration will not be delayed.

If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.