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**EARLY ALERT TO SCHOOLS**  
**Assembly Bill 354 Becomes Law**  
**2011 Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Immunization Requirements for Students**  
**September 30, 2010**

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California during 2010. The California Department of Public Health recommends that all Californians 10 years and older receive a booster shot against pertussis (also known as “Tdap”<sup>1</sup>). Moreover, [Assembly Bill 354](#), now chaptered into California law, requires students to be immunized against pertussis<sup>2</sup>:

**For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades** will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school. This requirement:

- Begins July 1, 2011.
- Can be met by receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Applies to all public and private schools.
- Does not affect students enrolled in summer school.

**Beginning July 1, 2012, and beyond, all students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade** will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school.

Starting now, please use your school websites, newsletters, report card messages, and other communications to send the following information:

*Pertussis is widespread. If your child 10 years and older has not yet received the ‘Tdap’ pertussis booster shot, please contact your doctor or health department. Getting a booster shot now will protect your child against the ongoing threat of pertussis and meet a new school requirement that begins in the 2011-12 school year (California law - Assembly Bill 354).*

*Adults are also advised to get a pertussis booster shot, if they haven’t already, to protect themselves, their families, and their students.*

Updates on implementing this new law will be posted later in the 2010-2011 school year at [www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx), which currently has general information about pertussis disease and immunization.

<sup>1</sup> “Tdap” = T<sub>e</sub>tanus toxoid, reduced d<sub>i</sub>phtheria toxoid and a<sub>c</sub>ellular p<sub>e</sub>rtussis vaccine.

<sup>2</sup> Exemptions permitted for verified medical conditions or personal beliefs.