

Michael D. Matthews, Ed.D.
Superintendent



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325 South Peck Avenue • Manhattan Beach • California 90266 • (310) 318-7345 • FAX (310) 303-3822

January 6, 2011

Subject: Immunization Notification

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The state of California passed a new law, AB 354, requiring proof of a pertussis booster vaccine, called "Tdap", for all students entering grades 7-12 for the 2011/2012 school year. The law requires:

- This coming school year (2011-2012), all students entering into 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot called "**Tdap**" before starting school.
- For the next school year (2012-2013) and future school years, all students entering into 7th grade only will need proof of a Tdap shot to start school.

This new immunization requirement is intended to help reduce the recent rise and spread of pertussis disease among California's youth. Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe. It spreads easily when someone with the disease coughs or sneezes. Symptoms can last for months. Whooping cough is particularly dangerous for young babies.

Most children are fully protected against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis prior to entering kindergarten because of the DTaP vaccine. However, immunity to these diseases wears off making adolescents vulnerable to whooping cough. Adolescents who receive a booster dose of Tdap will be protected during their school years. Immunization also helps to protect close contacts, including young infants for whom pertussis is most severe and sometimes fatal.

By law, students who do not have proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot will not be able to start the 2011/2012 school year until proof is provided to the school (the pertussis portion must be included in the vaccine, a tetanus-diphtheria booster shot Td, will not meet the requirement)

Because we want to make sure your child starts school on time, we urge you to:

1. **Get you child's Tdap shot NOW.** A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Avoid the back-to-school rush; make an appointment with your child's doctor or clinic to get a Tdap booster now.
2. **Save your proof of immunization.** Be sure to keep the written proof of your child's Tdap booster shot in a safe place. Your child will need to provide proof of immunization in order to start the 2011/2012 school year.
3. **Bring proof of immunization to your school health office as soon as possible.** Proof of immunization must be recorded in the school health office to make sure your child can start school on time.

Sincerely,

Tami Simmons, RN, PHN
District Nurse 310-318-7345 ext 5932

Kristin Walz RN, PHN
District Nurse 310-318-7345 ext 5931

For Tdap immunizations:

Check with your pediatrician, primary care physician and/or insurance carrier

CVS Minute Clinic cost \$92

2900 N. Sepulveda Blvd, Manhattan Beach 90266 phone: 310-546-3481
Mon-Fri 10:00-6:30 Sat&Sun 9:00-5:30

Torrance Health Center **FREE**

711 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance Ca. 90502 phone: 310-354-2300