

## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Nicole Stanfield

714-834-2178

nstanfield@ochca.com

## PERTUSSIS VACCINATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL 7<sup>th</sup> GRADERS

(Santa Ana) - August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and the Health Care Agency encourages parents to put vaccinations at the top of their back-to-school list. All students entering into 7th grade need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster immunization (called "Tdap") for school entry. Parents should know that unlike last year there will not be a grace period.

"The best way to prevent pertussis is to get vaccinated," said Dr. David Núñez, Medical Director of Health Care Agency Family Health. The Tdap booster protects and prevents the spread of pertussis (whooping cough), a dangerous disease that was at epidemic levels in 2010 in California. In 2012, a majority of US States (but not California) are experiencing increased pertussis activity or outbreaks.

Vaccine is widely available from medical providers, including community clinics, throughout Orange County. Individuals that do not have medical insurance covering the vaccination or who are unable to obtain the vaccination from their healthcare provider may obtain vaccine free of charge from the Health Care Agency's Immunization Clinic located at 1725 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706.

Every Thursday (August 2 - September 20)

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (closed for lunch)

Saturday, August 25 from 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Tuesday, August 28 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Tdap safely protects against three dangerous diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Parents should be aware that the protection from childhood immunization to pertussis wears off, and adolescents may be at risk for infection without a booster. A single shot provides protection and is well-tolerated, with the most common reported reaction being redness, swelling, or tenderness at the injection site. Individuals with a history of significant reactions to vaccine components or with rare neurologic conditions should not receive the vaccine.

For more information, please call the Health Referral Line at 800-564-8448 or visit the Health Care Agency website <a href="https://www.ochealthinfo.com/pertussis">www.ochealthinfo.com/pertussis</a>.

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