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

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread, including nine infant deaths, 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.
- Will be met by receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10<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.

These requirements apply to millions of students in California. Please utilize every opportunity to provide a Tdap booster shot to adolescents and adults (10 years and older) who haven’t yet received it. Give Tdap now to your unimmunized patients to protect them against the current threat and to meet the forthcoming school requirement. Schools may send communications about the Tdap requirement to the parents of your patients.

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) is directly accessed by many schools to check student immunization records. We encourage you to join CAIR to help meet the new Tdap booster shot requirement ([click here](#) for CAIR contact information).

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” = Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine.  
<sup>2</sup> Exemptions permitted for verified medical conditions or personal beliefs.