



# COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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July 11, 2011

**TO:** Supervisor, Bill Campbell, Third District, Chairman  
Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, Second District, Vice-Chairman  
Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District  
Supervisor Shawn Nelson, Fourth District  
Supervisor Patricia C. Bates, Fifth District

**SUBJECT: Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Immunization School Requirement**

On September 2, 2010, the Health Care Agency (HCA) provided information to your Honorable Board regarding the continuing incidence of cases of pertussis in California and Orange County. Numbers of reported cases during 2011 are well below those during the peak of the epidemic last summer, but remain consistently high relative to prior years statewide. As of June 24, 2011, there have been a total of 95 cases of pertussis reported in Orange County. Because of the risk to newborns, individuals in contact with newborns now or in the future (including pregnant women in their third or late trimester) are encouraged to seek pertussis (Tdap) vaccination from their healthcare provider.

One of the factors believed to influence the 2010 outbreak was the waning effectiveness of childhood pertussis vaccinations. As a result, on September 29, 2010, new legislation, AB354, was passed requiring a pertussis (Tdap) booster for all California students entering 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade after July 1, 2011 as a condition of entry on the first day of school. It is estimated that the number of students in Orange County requiring this vaccine could be as high as 280,000. To meet this demand, Public Health Services has been working with the California Department of Public Health, Orange County Department of Education, school nurses and providers to educate the community and promote adequate access to the vaccine in both the public and private sectors prior to the start of the school year.

The Tdap vaccine is widely available from medical providers, including community clinics and pharmacies, for a fee throughout Orange County; and no shortage is anticipated. If children do not have a medical provider that has the vaccine or medical insurance that covers Tdap, they may obtain the vaccine free of charge from the Public Health Services Tdap specific clinics at:

Public Health Services, 1725 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

- Thursdays, July 14<sup>th</sup> through September 8<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturdays, July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## **MEMBERS, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Immunization School Requirement

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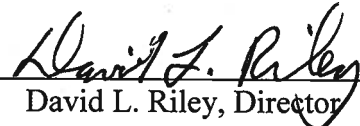
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In addition, the HCA website ([www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com)) provides information on additional free Tdap clinics supported by HCA throughout Orange County, some of which are as follows:

- Northgate Markets at 20 locations throughout the county from August 5<sup>th</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>, in collaboration with Maxim Healthcare Services
- Various school district sites throughout the county utilizing Maxim Healthcare Services, school nurses and community volunteers, including HCA's Medical Reserve Corp.

Parents are encouraged to have their student visit their healthcare provider as soon as possible to receive the immunization and obtain required documentation for school entry. Information regarding the new AB354 legislation, pertussis and vaccination facts, and local resources may be obtained by visiting [www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com) or by calling HCA's Health Referral Line at 1-800-564-8448.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Fleming, DrPA, MSW, Chief of Operations for Public Health Services, at 714-834-2980.



David L. Riley, Director

DLR:md 11-056

cc: Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer