



Attention: Parents/Guardians,

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California. Many students have had to miss school because they were sick.

To help protect your children and others from whooping cough, a new California law now requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough.

- **For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.
- **Thereafter, in future school years, only students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.
- **In Addition All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders are required by Kings County to have a documented TB skin test within 6 months prior to starting school.**  
**( Must be received after Feb. 14, 2011.)**

**By law, students who do not have proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school. (The tetanus-diphtheria booster shot, Td, will not meet the requirement.) Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders must also show proof of TB skin or they will be excluded from school.**

To ensure your child starts school on time:

**1. Get your child's Tdap shot now.**

A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your child's doctor or clinic for your child to get a Tdap booster shot now. Avoid the back-to-school rush. **Deadline April 29, 2011**

**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 school.

If you have any questions, please contact: **Kings County Health Department** at (559) 584-1401 with Walk-ins available, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Deadline for these immunizations: April 29, 2011. Prompt Proof of immunization is required and is to be brought to the office.**

**Thank you for your cooperation in this matter!**