Attention Parents – New Immunization Requirement

The State of California has instituted a new immunization requirement. Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread 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”). Moreover, Assembly Bill 354, now chaptered into California law, requires students to be immunized against pertussis.

For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades will need proof of a Tdap booster requirement before starting school in August of 2011. (DT or Td booster does not fulfill this requirement.) This requirement:

- Begins July 1, 2011.
- Can be met by receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10th 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 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school.

If your child received a Tdap vaccine at the age 10 or older, please provide documentation to the office. If you have a student who is 10 or older and has not received a Tdap booster, please contact your doctor or the health department as soon as possible and provide the proper documentation to the school once your child has received this booster.

Adults are also advised to get a pertussis booster shot to protect themselves, their families and their community.

If you have any questions regarding this new requirement, please contact the nurse at 434-5824. Thank you for prompt attention to this matter.