



Larry Meredith, Ph.D., Director

Jason Eberhart-Phillips, MD, MPH, Public Health Officer

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July 27, 2011

**Re: Whooping Cough Vaccine Requirement (AB 354)  
And Last-Minute School-Based Vaccination Clinics**

Dear Parents:

There is a new state law that requires all students entering grades seven to 12 to show evidence that they have been immunized against pertussis, also known as whooping cough. The vaccine requirement, set forth in AB 354, took effect on July 1.

The law comes in response to the largest outbreak of whooping cough in more than 40 years, an outbreak in which at least 10 young children in California have died. Ample epidemiologic evidence has shown that a single booster dose of the tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) given universally to secondary school-age children will lower school absenteeism and significantly reduce spread of this disease to the wider community.

To make it easier for students to get the Tdap vaccine in time for the first day of school, the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services is partnering with the Marin County Office of Education, the Marin County School Nurses' Association and the Marin Medical Reserve Corps to offer five vaccine clinics in school sites around the county just before the start of classes. At these clinics the vaccine will be offered at no cost to the many students who qualify for free vaccine under federal rules. Others will be able to purchase the vaccine at \$32, less than the actual cost.

The enclosed packet of documents includes a flyer describing the times and places for the clinics, along with other important documents—including the parental consent form to receive the vaccine.

Up to 5,000 students in Marin County who come under the new law still have not been immunized. Working together, we can make sure that every child in middle and high school in Marin County is protected against this disease and is ready to learn when classes start next month.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Eberhart-Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jason Eberhart-Phillips, MD, MPH  
Public Health Officer, County of Marin

**Department of Health & Human Services**

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