

# School Immunization Requirement for Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

## Attention: Parents of Students in ALL Marin Middle and High Schools

Assembly Bill 354 was chaptered into California law on September 29, 2010. **This new bill requires all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the 2011-12 school year to be immunized against pertussis (whooping cough).** Each student will need to submit proof of their Tdap\* booster before starting school in the fall of 2011. This requirement applies to both private and public schools and begins July 1, 2011.



### Here are the actions you need to take:

Check with your physician or medical provider:

1. If your child has recently received the Tdap booster vaccine, obtain and submit proof of immunization to the school office now.
2. If your child needs to receive the Tdap booster, **schedule an appointment with the provider and submit proof of immunization immediately afterward to the school office.**
3. If your child has a medical contraindication to pertussis vaccination, submit a completed and signed physician waiver to your school office.

This new immunization requirement is intended to help reduce the spread of pertussis (whooping cough) disease among California's youth. In recent years, California, as well as the rest of the U.S., has seen an increase in the number of whooping cough cases. In 2010, California experienced the most reported cases in over 60 years.

If you have questions or need additional information about this immunization requirement, please contact your health care provider or the Marin County Health department (415.473.4400) to make an appointment for your child to receive the Tdap booster vaccine.

Further information can also be found on the California Department of Public Health website at <http://www.getimmunizedca.org>

\*Tdap = Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis vaccine