

New Immunization Requirement
Assembly Bill 354
2011-2012 School Year
Students Entering Grades 7-12

This is an important message regarding your child's health and a new vaccine requirement. Pertussis, also known as whooping cough 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. The booster recommended is called **Tdap**. Beginning the 2011-2012 school year, all students entering the 7th through 12th grades will need proof of a **Tdap** booster shot before starting school. This requirement begins July 1, 2011 and is met by receiving one dose of **Tdap** vaccine on or after the 7th birthday. Beginning July 1, 2012 all students entering the 7th grade will require proof of a **Tdap** booster shot before starting school. This includes any student entering in, enrolling in or advancing to the 7th grade. A Tdap pertussis booster shot is recommended for all children at the age of 10 years or older; however, having the Tdap vaccine given on or after the 7th birthday meets the new school requirement. Immunization before the 7th birthday does not fulfill the requirement, even if given immediately before the 7th birthday. The Td immunization does not meet this requirement. Do not delay. Look at your child's yellow immunization record and check to see if your child has received a **Tdap** vaccine after the 10th birthday. If you are not sure whether your child has received this immunization please call your provider and ask. If your student will enter the 7th through 12th grades in July 2011, the school must verify **Tdap** administration. If your child is 10 years old or older and has not received this immunization make an appointment with your medical provider, clinic, or Public Health Department. Be sure you take your child's Yellow immunization card so that proper documentation for verification can be made. After your child has received the **Tdap** vaccine and it is documented on the Yellow Immunization card please take it to your child's school. At school, a copy of the card will be made as proof your child has received the vaccine. We encourage you to speak with your physician and assure your child receives this vaccine now. Do not wait until **August 2013** to get this done as it will complicate your child's ability to enroll in or continue in school. If we may assist you with information or answer specific questions please call your **School site Health Office** or the Colton Joint Unified School District Student Services Department at (909)580-6580.

Thank you for your attention and help in keeping our children healthy!