



Irvine Unified School District

5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604-4652, 949/936-5000, FAX 949/936-5259 www.iusd.org

January 10, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardians,

In response to the national Pertussis epidemic, commonly known as “Whooping Cough”, the state of **California has imposed a New Immunization Requirement for students who will start grades 7 through 12 on or after July 1, 2011.**

Assembly Bill 354 now mandates that children entering these grade levels show proof that they have recently (on or after the 10th birthday) received a Pertussis booster shot called “Tdap” as a condition of attendance. If your child has received this Tdap booster, please bring the original documentation to your student’s school office as soon as possible so that the information can be recorded appropriately.

Pertussis is a contagious disease that brings about a persistent cough, which may be followed by a distinct crowing – *or whooping* – sound when inhaling, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency. The deep cough can also be accompanied by vomiting, gagging, choking or turning blue. Agency officials note that it poses a great risk to newborns and other vulnerable populations.

Early booster shots are effective but can weaken over time, which is why health officials are now requiring children 10 years and older to get the Tdap vaccination, which includes boosters for tetanus and diphtheria. Adults are also advised to get the shot if they haven’t already, and this is said to be critically important for those who may be in close contact with infants.

For additional information, please visit IUSD’s Health Services website at http://www.iusd.org/education_services/health_services , or contact the department by phone at 949-936-7520. Parents can also get more information about Pertussis from their family doctor or by visiting the county Health Care Agency’s website at www.ochealthinfo.com/pertussis .

Sincerely,

Marcia Noonan, RN, MSN, MEd
IUSD Coordinator of Health Services

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