



VMS HEALTH NEWS

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

11/08/10

Pertussis is widespread. If your child 10 years and older has not yet received the 'Tdap' pertussis booster shot, please contact your doctor or health department. Getting a booster shot now will protect your child against the ongoing threat of pertussis and meet a new school requirement that begins in the 2011-12 school year (California law-Assembly Bill 354).

Adults are also advised to get a pertussis booster shot, if they haven't already, to protect themselves, their families, and their students.

If your child has tested positive for Whooping Cough, you must take the following steps per the CDC to be readmitted to school:

- As soon as your child receives a positive diagnosis, please **notify the school @ 644-9515**.
- Upon diagnosis, patient must **begin** appropriate antimicrobial **treatment**—usually a 5 day dosage.
- Student may only be **re-admitted** to school **after** completion of their 5 day antimicrobial treatment, *and* with a **written medical release** from the treating physician, (which may *not* be earlier than the 5 day treatment).

Your health and the health of your student is important to us. As always, please don't hesitate to call the school office with any questions or concerns.

For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov or www.vchca.org