Date: February 15th, 2011

To: Parent/Guardian

From: John T. Aycock, Superintendent

RE: New Immunization Requirement for students entering 7-12th grade

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California. Many students have had to miss school because they were sick.

To help protect your children and others from whooping cough, a new California law now requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough.

For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school. In future school years, students entering 7th grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.

Students who do not show proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot after the age of 7 will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school. The tetanus-diphtheria booster shot, Td, will not meet the requirement.

We want to make sure your child starts school on time. Please do the following:

1. **Get your child’s Tdap shot now.**
   A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. As soon as possible make an appointment with your child’s health care provider or call 784-8070 for information on how to obtain a free Tdap booster shot. Avoid the back-to-school rush.

2. **Bring proof of immunization to your child’s school as soon as possible.**
   Your child will need to provide proof of immunization in order to start school.

Getting the adolescent whooping cough shot now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of whooping cough but will also meet the new school requirement.

For more information go to [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org).

If you have any questions, please contact your child’s school nurse.