



FROM: Immunization Program
San Francisco Department of Public Health

DATE: April 20, 2010

Please Post

Pertussis and Tdap Vaccine

Twenty-seven deaths have been attributed to pertussis since 2001 in California.¹ **All of the deaths occurred in infants less than one year old including a newborn in San Francisco in 2005.** Infants are almost always infected through contact with an infected adolescent or adult. **This disease and these deaths can be prevented.**

Since the mid-1970s the incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) in the United States, California, and San Francisco has been increasing.² California has one of the highest rates of pertussis in the U.S. with reported cases rising from 644 in 2001 to a peak of 3,160 cases in 2005 and most recently 603 in 2009.³ Pertussis is a cyclical disease making an upswing in incidence more likely in 2010.

Many adolescents and adults are not fully protected from pertussis because immunity received from childhood vaccines (DTP, DTaP) wears off over time. These populations need a pertussis vaccine (Tdap) booster dose to prevent infection and the spread of the disease to others.

The San Francisco Immunization Coalition's Pertussis Task Force is a group comprised of over 20 public and private organizations working to prevent and reduce the disease in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

The Task Force has several priorities which San Francisco health care providers can help achieve:

- **Educate, recommend, and vaccinate all close contacts of newborns (mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, caregivers, etc.) with Tdap vaccine.**
- **Offer Tdap vaccine to all employees as mandated by CalOSHA to prevent health care workers from spreading the disease to patients.**⁴
- **Administer Tdap vaccine in replacement of Td for patients requiring a tetanus vaccine for wound treatment.**
- **Consider pertussis when diagnosing patients with respiratory illness. This disease is not gone as many providers assume and is often overlooked as a diagnosis in adults.**

Important web links:

ACIP Tdap Recommendation - <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5517a1.htm>

Pertussis Patient Educational Materials - http://www.sfcddcp.org/materials_request.html

CalOSHA Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standards - <http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/5199.html>



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
101 Grove Street Room 408 San Francisco CA 94102
Tel: 415.554.2830 Fax 415.554.2579 www.sfcddcp.org

Sources: 1. California Department of Public Health – Immunization Branch provisional pertussis incidence data. 2. Annual Report of Communicable Diseases in San Francisco 2008, San Francisco Department of Public Health 3. California Department of Public Health – Immunization Branch provisional pertussis incidence data. 4. California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5199, Aerosol Transmissible Diseases.