



FROM: Communicable Disease Prevention Unit
San Francisco Department of Public Health

DATE: August 27, 2010

Please Read and Post

Pertussis News and Reminders

RECENT NEWS

California's pertussis epidemic continues. Over 3,300 cases have been reported to date and there have been 8 infant deaths. This is a 7-fold increase from this time last year.*

Medicare covers Tdap for those \geq 65: Tdap vaccine is now a covered benefit under Medicare Part D. Off-label use of Tdap vaccine is encouraged for all adults over age 64, especially those who have close contact with young infants. Medicare now covers the vaccine.

Head's Up→Letter could prompt questions or demand for vaccines in Pediatric Offices: We have requested that a letter be distributed to all San Francisco students (public and private schools and child care centers) stating our authority to exclude children from school or child care if they are not fully immunized when there is a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak. The letter is posted at www.sfcdcp.org/izschools. This letter will be distributed to thousands of families and could prompt increased demand and/or questions about vaccines in pediatric practices.

REMINDERS

- Support the timely diagnosis and treatment of pertussis. See *Quick Guide for Clinicians* at www.sfcdcp.org/pertussis
- Universally Immunize! Offer Tdap to everyone, but especially women of childbearing age pregnant women (and their partners), post-partum women, all people who are close contacts of infants, all health care personnel.
- Use Tdap vaccine off-label - in children as young as age 7 who do not have a complete DTaP series and in adults over age 64.
- Use Tdap instead of Td for wound management.
- Use Tdap instead of Td in Emergency Departments.
- Do not withhold vaccine due to a question about minimum interval between a tetanus-containing vaccine and Tdap. When the risk of contracting pertussis is elevated, as it is now, any interval between doses of Td and Tdap is permitted.
- Continue visiting our website for updates and important links at www.sfcdcp.org

*<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx>



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