SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Student Support Services
Nursing Department

Committed to Serving Every Student Every Day

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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 California law now requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough.**

For the 2024-2025 school year, **all students entering 7th grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.**

By law, students who do not have proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot **will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school.** (The tetanus-diphtheria booster, Td, will not meet the requirement.)

We want to make sure your child starts school on time. I urge you to:

1. Get your child's Tdap shot now if he/she has not already received it. A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your child's doctor or clinic for your child to receive a Tdap booster shot now. Avoid the back-to-school rush.
2. Be sure to provide a copy of your child's immunizations to your school's Health Office. 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.

If you have any questions, please contact the District Nurse (805)933-8800 or speak to the Healthcare Specialist at your site.

Sincerely,

Dr. Letitia T. Bradley, Director

Student Support Services

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