



# PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Across the State, an increase in the prevalence of Whooping cough (pertussis) has been observed. This poses a significant public health challenge.

**For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades 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 shot, Td, will not meet the requirement.)

We want to make sure your child starts the 2011-2012 school year on time. We urge you to do the following immediately:

**1. Determine if your child has been immunized previously.**

If your child received a Tdap booster after the age of 7, then bring proof of the immunization to their school.

Kaiser and other health plan members may be able to print a record proving their student has been immunized using their health plan provider's online records system.

At PMS and MHS, proof should be provided to the main office. At PHS, proof should be provided to the counseling office.

**2. If your child has not been immunized, 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. Make an appointment with your child's doctor or

clinic for your child to get a Tdap booster shot now. Avoid the back-to-school rush.

**3. Provide proof of immunization as early as possible.**

Your child will need to provide proof of immunization in order to start school. Please provide this proof to your student's current school site as early as possible. At PMS and MHS, proof should be provided to the main office. At PHS, proof should be provided to the counseling office.

**4. Parents may request a waiver.** If a student is allergic to the Tdap booster, or in the event a parent objects to obtaining the vaccine due to personal beliefs, a waiver may be requested.

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 David Roth, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services at 594-2893.

Sincerely,

David Roth, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services