

MONTEREY COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LEN FOSTER, Director

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Health Advisory

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PERTUSSIS CASES CONTINUE LOCALLY

*As pertussis cases increase locally and statewide,
the Monterey County Health Department urges vaccination.*

Local medical providers have reported 22 cases of pertussis among Monterey County residents this year. This is over five times the rate of pertussis reports received at the same time last year. The increase in pertussis activity is mirrored statewide, and five infants have died in California since January, all less than three months of age.

State and local health officials are concerned that 2010 will be a peak year for pertussis and recommend immediate preventive action. Please encourage vaccination, especially among adults and adolescents in close contact with young infants. Childhood immunization does not provide lifetime immunity. Current vaccination recommendations include:

- Children should receive 5 doses of pertussis vaccine (DTaP) before kindergarten.
- Adolescents between 11 and 18 years of age should receive a booster dose (Tdap).
- In households with infants, parents (including pregnant mothers), adult household members age 19 to 64, and other caregivers should receive a single dose of Tdap.
- Healthcare workers should receive a dose of Tdap, especially if they work with children.
- A minimum interval of 5 years between Td and Tdap doses is recommended; however, a shorter interval is appropriate in certain situations, such as protection of high risk individuals.

Attached are informational flyers available in both English and Spanish to help inform your patients.

For more information about pertussis diagnosis, treatment, and reporting, please contact the Monterey County Health Department's Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 755-4521. For information about immunizations, please contact the Health Department's Immunization Coordinator at (831) 755-4683.

Health Alert: Warrants immediate action or attention. **Health Advisory:** Provides information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action. **Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.