

## AB 1192 – Pertussis Education

### Bill Overview

AB 1192 creates a mechanism for informing parents about the risk of pertussis to their newborn and how that risk can be minimized through immunization of all close contacts of the infant. Though some hospitals in CA currently have post partum programs in place, a minimum standard is needed to ensure all parents in CA are informed of the risk of pertussis to their newborn.

Specifically, AB 1192 requests hospitals, prior to discharge, to inform all parents of newborns about the risk of pertussis to their child and of the most current recommendation by the Center for Disease Controls Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and the State Department of Public Health, to immunization of close contacts of newborns. This bill would also require hospitals to inform parents of the availability of a vaccine to protect against pertussis. This bill would not require the hospital to provide or pay for the vaccination against pertussis.

### Background on Pertussis

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is an acute, infectious cough illness that remains significant in the US despite long-standing routine childhood vaccination. Anyone can get pertussis and in babies, pertussis can be life-threatening. People with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria. Researchers found that when the source of an infant's pertussis was identified, family members were responsible for spreading the disease to the baby in up to 80% of cases, and more specifically, parents were the source up to 50% of the time. Because of the significant rise in US pertussis cases, the ACIP (CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) has issued recommendations for use of pertussis vaccine stressing the importance of routinely vaccinating those in close contact with infants, including adolescents and adults who have not received a dose of the pertussis vaccine.

The issue of raising immunization rates against pertussis is particularly important in California due to the ongoing pertussis epidemic in which the number of cases in 2010 represents the most cases *reported* in 65 years. In 2010 there were **9,477** confirmed, probable and suspect cases of pertussis reported to CDPH for a state rate of **24.2 cases/100,000**. In 2011, **514** cases have already been reported.

Enclosed is a CA Department of Public Health Pertussis Report, dated March 9, 2011, which documents the significant number of cases that required hospitalization, including infants less than 3 months of age. It also identifies 9 infant deaths that were reported. Also enclosed is a presentation created by CDPH outlining the effectiveness of Tdap post partum efforts in CA.



Effectiveness of  
Postpartum Tdap.ppt



pertussis report  
3-9-2011.pdf