



## SB 614 – Optional Grace Period for Pertussis Vaccination Requirement Talking Points and Background Information

### Background

Assembly Bill No. 354 (Arambula) Pertussis booster vaccination requirement for adolescents – was signed into law on September 29, 2010. This law requires that as of July 1, 2011, all current, new or transferring students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade public and private schools must show proof of having received a dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine on or before the first day of school. \*

In response to the needs of school districts requiring additional time to manage the large volume of students and vaccination records, Senator Christine Kehoe (San Diego) authored legislation to allow school districts to utilize a 30 day grace period to ‘conditionally’ admit students who required more time to obtain verification of Tdap vaccination prior to the first day of school.

- Under the new law signed by Governor Brown on Monday, July 25, 2011, SB 614 (Kehoe), public and private schools *may* allow students in the 7th through 12th grades to conditionally attend classes for up to 30 calendar days after their first day of the 2011-2012 school year before meeting their requirement for a whooping cough booster (‘Tdap’) shot.
- This ‘grace period’ or option for conditional attendance will assist schools that need additional time to gather records on their students.
- As pertussis continues to occur at high levels in California, unimmunized adolescents remain at risk of becoming ill, missing school and spreading the disease in our communities. The California Immunization Coalition urges schools, health care providers and the public to continue their efforts to make sure students are immunized against pertussis this summer.
- Pertussis disease activity levels in California remain high; the number of cases occurring in the early months of 2011 was the same as the number reported during the peak months of 2005. So far in 2011, 1,918 cases of pertussis have been reported to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- In 2010, ten infants under the age of 3 months died of pertussis and 9,120 cases were reported to the California Department of Public Health
- If they have not already, parents should make sure their children get immunized with Tdap and submit their shot records to school as soon as possible – check with your local school district for details.
- Students may obtain the Tdap vaccination through their private provider and is a covered benefit under nearly all insurance plans. If a student does not currently have a provider, many local health departments offer free or low-cost vaccines.
- Go to [www.ShotsforSchool.org](http://www.ShotsforSchool.org) for latest information and resources.

\* Starting on **July 1, 2012 for school year 2012-2013**, and all future school years, all students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap immunization