



# No Shots, No School: Strategies for Implementing California's Pertussis Booster Requirement

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# Presentation Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of the pertussis booster school requirement
- Describe Public Health's strategy for supporting implementation of the new requirement
- Identify activities and resources that they can use to promote awareness of the new requirement





# The Basics: Pertussis Booster School Mandate



# The Pertussis Booster School Requirement

Assembly Bill 354 (Arambula)

- Chaptered into law in September 2010
- Takes effect July 1, 2011
- Changes the California Health and Safety Code to require students to provide proof of a pertussis booster (Tdap) shot on or after their 7th birthday to enter school
- No grace period



# Groups Affected by the Requirement

- 2011-12 School Year:  
Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Future School Years  
Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- Affects public, private, charter, and juvenile court schools; children in foster care; and transfer and exchange students
- Does not affect students  $\geq$  18 years of age





# Rationale for the New School Mandate



# Rationale for the Requirement

**Public Health advocated for passage of AB 354 because:**

- School laws are effective and recommended by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services' Community Guide.

- Primary vaccine protection wanes, leaving adolescents at risk.

Teens

- Have milder symptoms but can have a cough for 10 weeks, be hospitalized, and miss weeks of school.

- Can spread pertussis to vulnerable groups. 41% of transmission to infants may be from siblings.

- California continues to experience a statewide pertussis epidemic.

In  
2010

- More cases in CA than in any other year since 1947

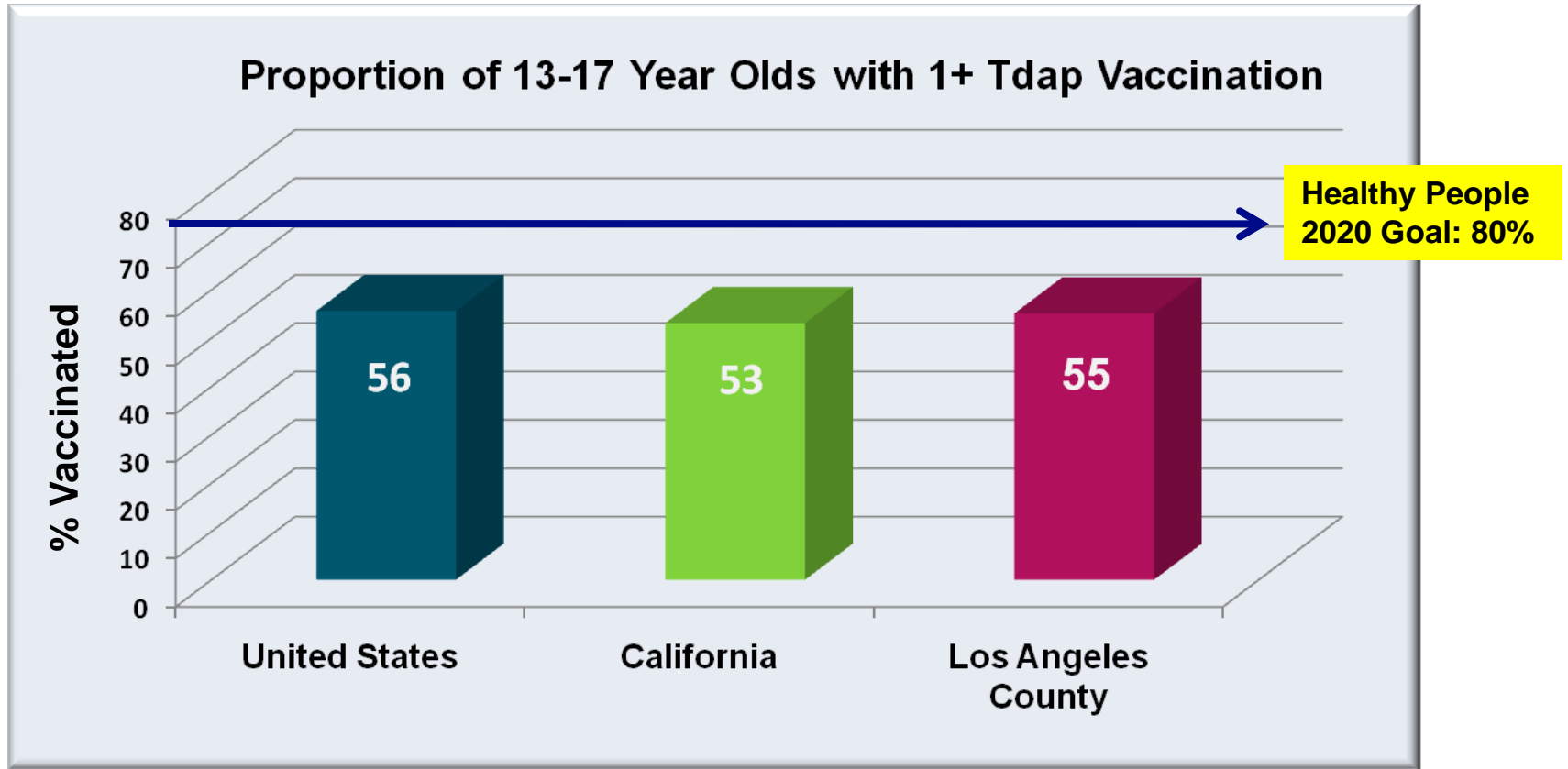
- More than 4 times as many cases in Los Angeles County as in 2009

- 4 infant deaths in Los Angeles County



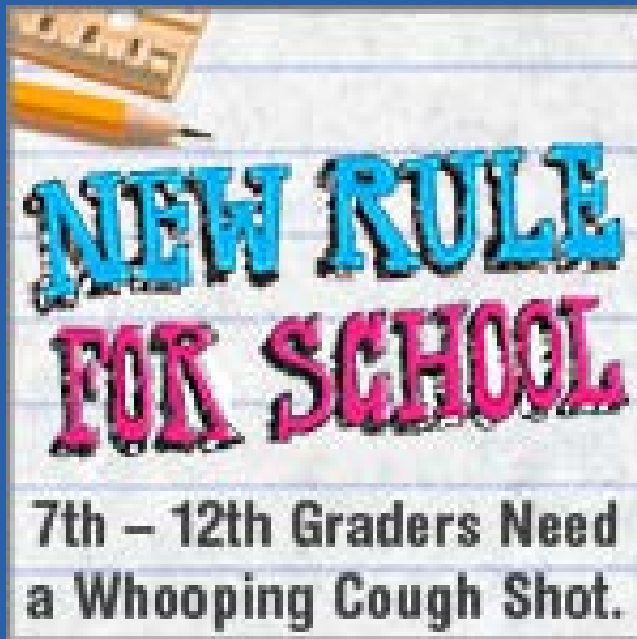
# Rationale for the Requirement *(Cont.)*

## Vaccination Rates Remain Low



Data Source: 2009 National Immunization Survey





# Implementing the School Requirement



# Overview of K-12 Schools in Los Angeles County

- There are 80 school districts in Los Angeles County
  - District sizes vary from <50 to nearly 700,000 students
  - Approximately 1,271,000 10-17 year olds in LAC
    - Over 800 schools (including private, parochial and charter schools)



# Implementation Approach

- Encourage early vaccination before the school year ends.
  - Avoid delays in school entry.
  - Protect adolescents during the epidemic.
  - Avoid capacity issues for public, non-profit & private providers in the fall.
- Promote all adolescent vaccinations.
  - 1+ Dose of Meningococcal Vaccine: 58%\*
  - 3+ Doses of HPV Vaccine (Girls): 31%\*



\* Data Source: 2009 National Immunization Survey, Los Angeles County



# Implementation Approach *(Cont.)*

- Encourage vaccination in the medical home.
  - Referrals for teens with access to a regular provider
- Tailor CDPH materials to local needs. Take the lead on other needed resources.
  - Health plan resources, Provider FAQ, best practices training call, and youth newspapers
- Capitalize on existing partnerships and establish new ones.



# Implementation Approach (Cont.)

- Educate and support teens, parents, schools, CBOs, and providers through:
  - Media outreach
  - Print Resources
  - DPH website
    - Fast Facts, Links, Rotating Banner, and Web Button
  - Presentations and training calls
  - Protocols, templates and forms
  - Ongoing technical assistance

**Pertussis**  
**Pertussis Boosters Now Required for All 7th – 12th Graders for School Entry**  
 What Physicians Need to Know

**What is the new pertussis booster requirement for 7th – 12th graders?**  
 On September 29, 2010, Assembly Bill 354, a new law changing California immunization requirements for students entering 7th – 12th grades in public and private schools was passed. The law requires:

- This coming school year (2011 – 2012), all students entering 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade will need proof of an adolescent pertussis booster (Tdap) shot before starting school.
- For the next school year (2012-13) and future school years, only students entering into 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap dose to start school.

A dose of Td or DT vaccine **does not** satisfy this requirement.

**Are all 7th – 12th grade students affected?**  
 Yes. For the 2011 – 2012 school year, all students entering 7th through 12th grades in 2011-2012 school year will need proof of a Tdap dose to start school. While exempt, we strongly recommend that all students entering into 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap dose to start school.

**Why was the Tdap requirement implemented?**  
 This new immunization requirement requires California's youth, in recent years, a number of pertussis cases. In 2011, California reported 1,000 cases of pertussis. Schools will need to follow the law.

**What if a student does not have a Tdap shot?**  
 The student will still need a pertussis shot. Schools will need to follow the law.

**What if a student has had pertussis?**  
 The student will still need a pertussis shot. Schools will need to follow the law.

**What exemptions are available?**  
 California School Immunization Requirements (CSIR) provide medical exemptions (ME) for students who are at greater risk for an outbreak. A vaccine safety can be found at [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Imz/CSIR.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Imz/CSIR.aspx)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov)

**NEW RULE SHOTS BEFORE SCHOOL**

**Tdap (Pertussis Booster) Requirement Sticker (PM 286 S)**  
 Instructions for School Staff

Tdap stickers are to be completed by school staff, not by students or their parents. The Tdap sticker, when affixed to the student's California School Immunization Record (PM 286), also the Blue Card's, documents Tdap vaccine in the student's permanent record as required by California law Health and Safety Code §120325 - 120335.

**1. Review the student's immunization record for the Tdap requirement.**  
 One dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 7th birthday is required for:  
 • all students entering 7th through 12th grades in 2011-2012 school year  
 • all students entering 7th grade in 2012-2013 and future school years

Does the vaccine abbreviation or trade name on the student's record meet the Tdap requirement?

YES	Tdap Adacel® Boostrix® DTaP or DTaP	Given on or after the 7th birthday	meets the requirement.
NO	Td DCAVAC® DT DTaP or DTaP given before the 7th birthday (usual age limit) History of pertussis disease		do not meet the requirement.

**2. After the Tdap Sticker:**  
 Affix the sticker to the front upper corner of the Blue Card where it will not obstruct vital information.  
 Blue Card generated by the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) since December 2010 often do not need a Tdap sticker. CAIR's permanent record for the Tdap information on the upper left hand corner. The person entering the student's record still will need to enter their name on the Tdap vaccine portion of the Blue Card provided by CAIR.

**3. Complete the sticker:**

- Enter the date of the Tdap immunization.
- Enter the student's birthdate.
- Verify and check one of three options. The student has:
  - Proof of a Tdap vaccine on or after their 7th birthday
  - A medical exemption specifically for Tdap signed by the physician
  - A personal belief exemption specifically for Tdap (PBE1) signed by the parent or guardian
- Enter the name of the school staff assessing the student's Tdap status.
- Enter the date the assessment is completed.
- Enter the student's name or identification number as needed to match the Tdap sticker with the student's Blue Card.

**4. File the Blue Card in the student's permanent record.**  
 If the student has a signed medical or personal belief exemption, file it with the Blue Card.

If you have questions, contact your local health department immunization program. [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)



# Promoting to Parents

- Fast Facts and links on website
- Education through CBOs
  - Catholic Youth Coordinators
  - Little League and Boys and Girls Clubs
  - CA Association of PTAs
- Media Event w/ Dr. Fielding in conjunction with Kaiser held on (4/14/11)
- LA Youth Newspaper
- Outreach to DPH Staff
  - “The Voice” article and Wellness site info (pending)
  - Paystub reminder
  - MY PHD posting

**NEW RULE**  
**SHOTS BEFORE SCHOOL**

7<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> graders are now required to get a whooping cough shot before starting the 2011-2012 school year

Call your doctor today

[ShotsForSchool.org](http://ShotsForSchool.org)

Don't have a regular healthcare provider or health insurance?  
Dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lp](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lp) for referrals to no-cost and low-cost immunization providers.

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# Preparing Providers

- Articles in medical association and partner newsletters
  - AAP, AAFP, NEPO, CMA Foundation, CAPG
- Educational resources
  - Provider FAQ
  - Online templates and Fact Facts
  - “Rx for Prevention” articles
- Outreach to CAPG and health plans
- Health Alert Network
- CAIR log-in reminders
- Face-to-face presentations
- CDPH clinician webinar promotion

## No Shots, No School

### New School Vaccination Requirement Takes Effect

For the 2011-12 school year, all students entering 7th through 12th grades in public and private schools will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school. This requirement takes effect July 1, 2011. As many as a half-million adolescents in Los Angeles County between 11 and 18 years of age may be due for a Tdap vaccination.

- Start vaccinating your adolescent patients now to avoid being overwhelmed with vaccine visits this fall.
- Stock up on Tdap and other adolescent vaccines to meet expected demand. Ensure storage capacity for all vaccine doses that you plan to order.
- Identify and recall patients who are due/overdue for a Tdap dose.
  - The school entry requirement is met if a child received one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 7th birthday.
  - A dose of Td does not satisfy the requirement.

- The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) can be used to check vaccination status, track inventory, and conduct reminder/recall.  
Learn more at [www.immunizelink.org](http://www.immunizelink.org) or by calling (213) 351-7411. You may also be able to use health plan, IPA, and EHR data to identify patients due for Tdap vaccinations.

- Clearly document all Tdap doses given as Tdap (not Td or Td/Tdap) in the medical record, immunization record, electronic health record, and registry.
- Educate parents about the risks of choosing to exempt their child from this requirement for non-medical reasons. Access patient educational materials and videos at [www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org) and [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip).

Access additional information and resources related to the school mandate at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org).



# Supporting Schools

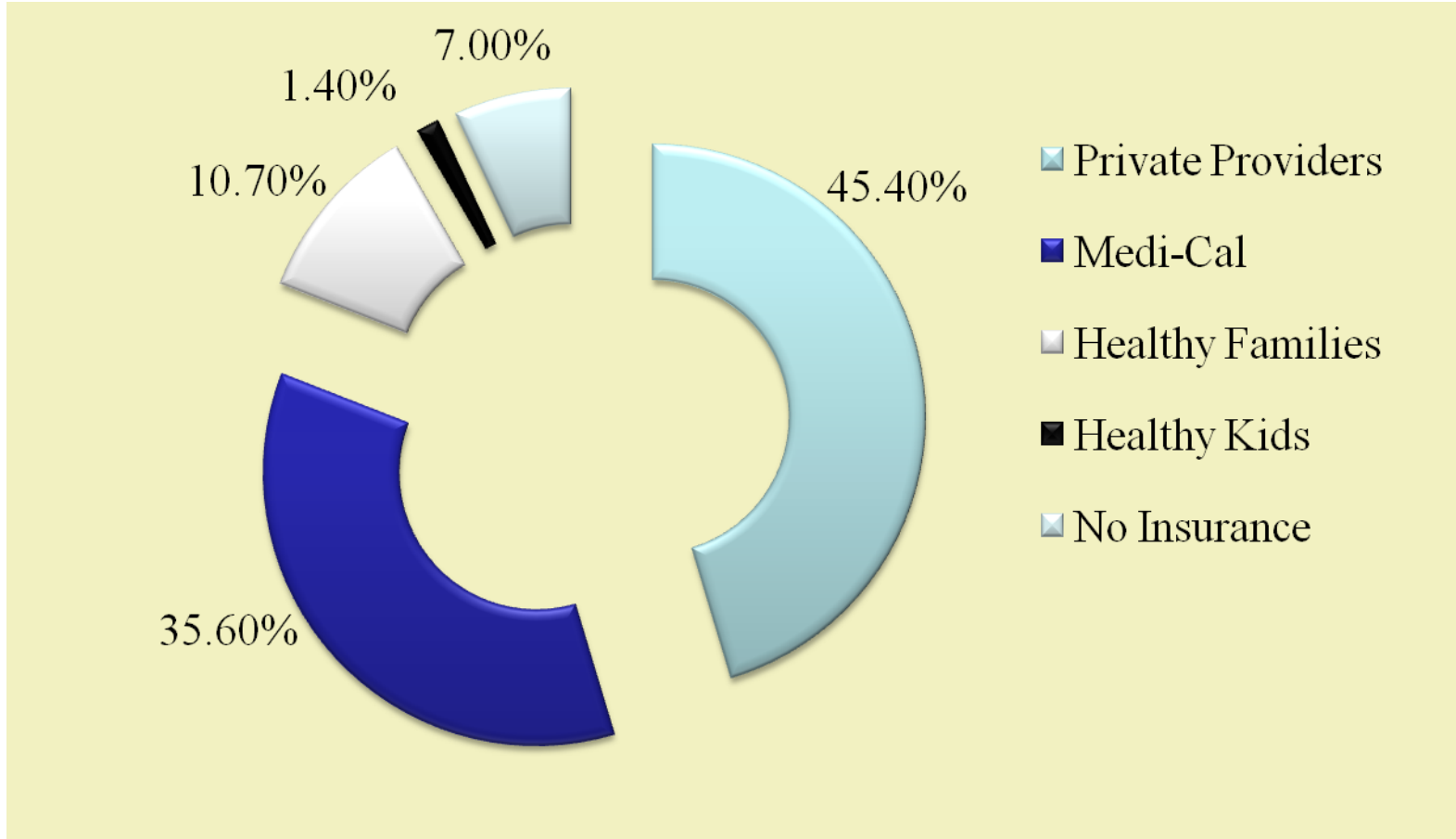
- TA Conference calls with public, private and charter school orgs.
- Materials distribution
  - Tdap Requirement Sticker
  - Medical Exemption and Personal Belief Exemptions Forms
  - Instructions
- Online Toolkit for Schools
  - Article, web alert and letter templates
  - Automated phone message script
  - Resource lists
  - School webinar



**Over 700 visitors to the kit in 4 weeks!**



# Distribution of Vaccinators of School-Aged Children (12 to 17 years)\*



Source: Los Angeles County (LAC) Health Survey data (2007)



# Algorithm to Identify ‘Public Schools in Need’

Three data points were used to create an algorithm that would identify ‘high risk public schools’ if it met the following criteria:

- 81% or greater of students on the Free/Reduced Price Meal (FRPM) Program
- Less than 7,920 Vaccines for Children (VFC) doses allocated to the school’s zip code.
- 29% or greater of the total number of Pertussis cases were diagnosed within the school’s zip code.



# Algorithm to Identify ‘Private Schools in Need’

Three data points were used to create an algorithm that would identify ‘high risk public schools’ if it met the following criteria:

- If the school resided in a zip code identified by LACIP as an “Immunization Pocket of Need” (PON)
- Less than 7,920 Vaccines for Children (VFC) doses allocated to the school’s zip code.
- 29% or greater of the total number of Pertussis cases were diagnosed within the school’s zip code.



# Number of Public Schools in Non-LAUSD Districts Identified by Risk Classification\*

- Low Risk Schools – No Intervention Needed (n=117)
- Low Risk, High Density Schools (n=72)
- Medium Risk Schools (n=97)
- High Risk Schools (n=94)

TOTAL of **191 Medium to High Risk Schools** with **6,516 students** who may be at risk of not meeting requirement



## Number of Public Schools within the LAUSD District Identified by Risk Classification\*

- Low Risk Schools – No Intervention Needed (n=115)
- Low Risk, High Density Schools (n=53)
- Medium Risk Schools (n=84)
- High Risk Schools (n=86)

TOTAL of **170 Medium to High Risk Schools** with **2,902 students** who may be at risk of not meeting requirement





# Working toward 100% Compliance



# Tracking and Tweaking

- AB 354 Implementation Team charts progress and refines strategies
- Weekly reports of web activity
- Integration of CDPH, school, provider, and partner feedback effort



# School Plan to Ensure Compliance

- Some schools have held school-based clinics
- Blue/Yellow card checking procedure started already
- School specific compliance procedures being put in place
- Exclusion of students



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# Questions



# Thank you!

