



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Number of Cases of Whooping Cough High This Year

Woodland, CA—The California Department of Public Health has reported 910 cases of whooping cough, also known as pertussis, in the state as of June 15, 2010. This is four times the number of cases reported for the same time in 2009. Currently, Yolo County has reported the same number of cases so far this year as was reported last year at this time with no increase in reported cases.

“Our children are our greatest asset,” stated Dr. Joseph Iser, Yolo County Health Officer/Director. “Now is an opportune time to check and make sure they are up to date on their vaccines, including the Tdap that covers whooping cough.”

Whooping cough is one of the most common respiratory diseases among teens. It causes a severe cough that can last weeks or months and can sometimes cause pneumonia or hospitalization. The Tdap vaccine helps protect preteens and teens against this disease. It can also protect their families and close contacts.

It can be especially severe in babies who may not have had all their scheduled vaccines yet. It is important to make sure everyone around them, including adults, is vaccinated so they cannot get sick with whooping cough and infect the baby.

Symptoms of the disease begin with a runny nose, sneezing, low-grade fever, and a mild occasional cough. The symptoms gradually become more severe, and the coughing spasms begin after about two weeks. The person has bursts of numerous, rapid coughs in an effort to expel thick mucus. At the end of the coughing burst, there is a characteristic high-pitched whoop as the person tries to breathe. Coughing is more frequent at night, interfering with sleep. Recovery, with antibiotic treatment, is gradual over several weeks.

The Tdap vaccine for whooping cough is available at your doctor’s office. The Health Department will also have it available at their immunization clinics on Wednesdays from 2-5 p.m.

Yolo County Health Department
Immunization Clinic
137 N. Cottonwood St
Woodland, CA

For more information about the Health Department clinic, call (530) 666-8645.

“Investing In Our Community’s Future”