



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Date: July 14, 2010
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Whooping Cough Vaccine Clinic July 17, 2010

Woodland, CA—Although the numbers of local cases reported remains stable at six, the number of cases of whooping cough (pertussis) statewide continues to rise. As of June 30, 2010, California has reported 1,337 cases and 5 deaths. Last year there were 258 reported cases and no deaths. It is most severe for babies, who often catch the illness from a family member or other caregiver who might not even know they have the disease.

“Babies are at highest risk because they cannot be fully immunized until after receiving a series of shots,” states Dr. Joseph Iser Yolo County Health Officer/Director. “Parents, family members, and caregivers of infants should get a booster shot to provide a cocoon of protection around these babies until they are fully immunized.”

The Yolo County Health Department is providing a free pertussis (Tdap) vaccine clinic for anyone age 10-64 years old who cares for or lives with babies younger than 6 months old. The clinic will be:

July 17, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Yolo County Health Department
137 N. Cottonwood St., Suite 1200
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8645

****Please bring your shot record with you to the clinic**

Pertussis (whooping cough) is highly contagious and one of the most commonly occurring vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States. More than half of infants less than 1 year of age who get the disease must be hospitalized. About 1 in 20 infants with whooping cough get pneumonia (lung infection).

Pertussis occurs in a cyclical pattern, with the number of cases peaking every 3 to 5 years as people’s immunity from the vaccine wears off and the bacteria begin circulating again. Therefore, it is important to make sure that all people around young babies are up to date with the vaccine, including siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nannies, caregivers, childcare staff, etc.

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