



*Excellence
Integrity
Service*

COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DAVID L. RILEY
DIRECTOR

MAILING ADDRESS:
405 W. 5th STREET, 7th FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

TELEPHONE: (714) 834-6021
FAX: (714) 834-3660
E-MAIL: driley@ochca.com

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

July 23, 2010

TO: Supervisor Janet Nguyen, First District, Chair
Supervisor, Bill Campbell, Third District, Vice-Chair
Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, Second District
Supervisor Shawn Nelson, Fourth District
Supervisor Patricia C. Bates, Fifth District

SUBJECT: Pertussis Increase, Orange County and California – Update July 23, 2010

On June 23, the Health Care Agency provided information to your Honorable Board regarding the increase of pertussis cases reported in California. The number of cases across the State, including Orange County, continues to grow and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued additional recommendations this week to address the epidemic levels of pertussis.

In a statement by CDPH on July 19, "Pertussis has reached an epidemic level in California. For the first six months of this year, 1,496 cases of pertussis were reported, a five-fold increase from the same period last year...Five infants, all under the age of three months, have died of pertussis this year." Since that statement, one additional death of an infant was reported in Los Angeles this week.

In Orange County there have been 122 pertussis (whooping cough) cases and no pertussis-related deaths reported thus far this year. Forty-eight (48) of the Orange County confirmed cases are under 1 year of age. Pertussis is cyclical and cases tend to peak every two to five years. In 2005, Orange County's last peak year, 37 cases of pertussis were reported at this point in the year.

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease and young infants are particularly vulnerable since they have not completed the initial vaccine series against pertussis yet. Vaccination against whooping cough usually begins at age two months, but can be started as early as six weeks in times when pertussis is prevalent in the community such as now. Adequate protection is usually not complete until after the first set of three shots, the last of which is routinely at about 6 months of age. This is why it is important that those caring for infants get vaccinated against pertussis.

Pertussis Increase, Orange County and California

Members, Board of Supervisors

July 23, 2010

Page 2

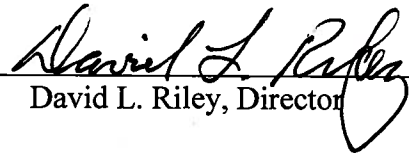
The CDPH broadened recommendations for immunizing against pertussis. In addition to the typical series of childhood pertussis immunizations, CDPH now recommends an adolescent-adult pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap) for:

- anyone 7 years and older who is not fully immunized, including those who are more than 64 years old,
- women of childbearing age, before, during, or immediately after pregnancy, and
- other people who have contact with pregnant women or infants.

The Health Care Agency has taken several additional actions this week in response to the ongoing epidemic:

1. The Health Care Agency's Epidemiology and Assessment program sent a communication to community physicians encouraging implementation of the State's recommendations; posted recommendations on the Orange County Medical Association website and scheduled additional Grand Round presentations at area hospitals.
2. Employee Health Services has communicated with Health Care Agency staff to encourage Tdap booster vaccinations for health care personnel working with pregnant women and infants.
3. Additional public information has been provided through the agency's web site, Facebook, and Twitter accounts and through a press release.

Vaccine is widely available from medical providers, including community clinics, throughout Orange County. Individuals that do not have medical insurance covering the vaccination or who are unable to obtain the vaccination from their healthcare provider may obtain vaccine free of charge from the Health Care Agency's Immunization Clinic located at 1725 W. 17th Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706, Monday through Friday from 8-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m. For more information, visit the Health Care Agency's website at <http://ochealthinfo.com> or call the Health Referral Line at 1-800-564-8448.


David L. Riley, Director

DLR:df

cc: Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer
Stephen Dunivent, Deputy CEO