



# SADDLEBACK VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way · Mission Viejo, California 92691 · (949) 586-1234 · www.svusd.org

## Board of Education

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January 31, 2011

Dear Parents:

The Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) has notified Saddleback Valley Unified School District that Orange County is currently experiencing an epidemic of pertussis, commonly called “whooping cough.” Although we have not received any specific reports about epidemic levels of pertussis in our community, it is very important that families are notified of this risk and about new requirements for immunization that will go into effect for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Please read this letter in its entirety as all students entering grades 7 through 12 will be required to provide documentation of having obtained a pertussis (Tdap) vaccine booster prior to entering school on the first day of the 2011-12 school year (California Law-Assembly Bill 354).** Due to the volume of students that this new law affects, we strongly encourage families to have their students vaccinated before the end of the current school year and present documentation to their student’s current school in order to prevent any delays in enrollment for the new school year.

As a general guideline, we are requesting the following:

1. Have your student vaccinated with a pertussis (Tdap) booster. This can be done through your private physician or at any advertised pertussis clinic.  
*\*If your student was vaccinated for pertussis vaccine after age 10, this will satisfy the new law requirement.*
2. Bring proof of vaccination to your student’s current school **prior to June 1, 2011** so that office staff (Office Manager at Elementary level and Guidance Office at Intermediate and High School levels) can input information on your student’s immunization record.
3. Keep your student’s immunization card up-to-date and in a secure place for reference, if needed.

If you have any questions regarding the OCHCA notification regarding pertussis, please refer to the attached information letter from the County of Orange. We appreciate your timely response to this new immunization requirement, as student health is a shared priority.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Health Services at 949-588-7651.

Sincerely,

Dianne Beckman  
SVUSD District Nurse

Enclosure