



Dehesa Charter School
Shaping the Future... One Student at a Time



April 8, 2011

Dear Parent,

The California Department of Education has sent out the following notice:

Assembly Bill 354 was signed into law in September 2010. As a result, students entering or advancing to grades seven through twelve in the 2011-12 school year are required to be immunized with a pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine booster called Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap). The new requirement goes into effect July 1, 2011, for one year and affects all students - current, new, and transfers - in public and private schools. The law changes for the 2012-13 school year and beyond. On July 1, 2012, AB 354 will require only students who are entering or advancing into grade seven to be immunized with Tdap.

Pertussis is a very infectious disease that can be debilitating at any age and lethal to infants. As of January 7, 2011, there were more than 8,300 cases of pertussis with onset in 2010 reported statewide to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) - the most reported since 1947. As early childhood immunization does not provide lasting immunity to pertussis, CDPH recommends a Tdap booster immunization for all persons ten years of age and older, yet most people have not received the Tdap booster. As a result, many older students and adults remain susceptible to pertussis, risking their health and the health of their communities. At least 10 infants too young to be immunized have died from pertussis in 2010 in California.

Immunization with Tdap can protect students who have not yet been immunized against the ongoing risk of pertussis and meet the forthcoming requirement for the 2011-12 school year.

You may mail or fax a copy of your immunization verification to our main office, or give it to your Educational Facilitator. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Faust at (760) 743-5812 or email kfaust@mydehesa.org.

Sincerely,

Terri Novacek
Executive Director