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## **Riverside County health officials continue to urge teens to get whooping cough vaccine**

While an emergency law signed Monday gives students more time to get vaccinated against whooping cough, Riverside County health and education officials are continuing to stress the need for young people to get the required Tdap shot as soon as possible.

Schools can now conditionally admit students who can't show proof of vaccination for up to 30 days, according to the law signed by Gov. Brown. The previous law required that all students between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades show proof of vaccination before they could be allowed to enroll.

In Riverside County, more than 220,000 students are required to get the Tdap vaccine, although some estimates put the compliance rate at 55 percent, according to the Riverside County Office of Education.

“The need for students to get the Tdap vaccination remains a high priority when it comes to the health of the community,” said Dr. Eric Frykman, Health Officer for Riverside County. “Nothing has changed in that regard. It is crucial for parents and guardians to get their children vaccinated as soon as possible.”

The Riverside County Health Department has extended the hours at the 10 clinics it operates so the Tdap vaccines can be administered. Health officials are encouraging parents to take their children to a family doctor for the vaccine or make an appointment at one of the clinics if they do not have insurance. Please call 1-800-720-9553 for clinics near you.

More than 9,000 people in California contracted the illness last year and 10 infants died from whooping cough (Pertussis) during the outbreak.

For more information, please visit <http://www.rivcoph.org/pertussis> or [www.ShotsforSchool.org](http://www.ShotsforSchool.org).

See extended hours: [http://www.rivcoph.org/pertussis/pdf/FCC\\_Tdap%20Extended\\_Hours.pdf](http://www.rivcoph.org/pertussis/pdf/FCC_Tdap%20Extended_Hours.pdf)