

Countywide Services Agency

Department of  
Health and Human Services

Public Health

Glennah Trochet, M.D., Health Officer



County of Sacramento

Steven C. Szalay,  
Interim County Executive

Bruce Wagstaff, Administrator

Ann Edwards-Buckley, Director

August 13, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to inform insurance companies with covered lives in Sacramento County that there is an epidemic of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, in the state of California. As of the date of this letter there had been 7 infant deaths in California due to pertussis. Sacramento County is also experiencing a significant increase in cases of pertussis and has joined the effort to control this epidemic.

The most effective way to stop the spread of pertussis is to vaccinate as many people as possible. As permitted by law, the California Department of Public Health has authorized the use of Tdap vaccine beyond the licensed age groups. These age groups are children 7-9 years old and people 65+ years of age. Attached are the recommendations issued by the California Department of Public Health in July, 2010.

Sacramento County Public Health endorses this expansion of the use of the vaccine and **recommends that health insurance companies pay for the vaccine when it is given to those who are in these expanded age groups.** This will ensure access to the vaccine and will help stop the epidemic.

We thank all insurance companies who will join the effort to control pertussis and save lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Glennah Trochet, M.D.' with a small 'x' at the beginning.

Glennah Trochet M.D.  
Sacramento County Health Officer