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County Health Clinics Expand Hours to Provide Required Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Vaccine

With some Riverside County classes starting next month, health officials are expanding the hours for the county's 10 health clinics so middle and high school students can get the whooping cough vaccine (Tdap) required so they can enroll.

Under a new law, students will not be allowed to start school without proof of vaccination.

The extended hours begin July 6 at the Public Health Family Care Centers. Please call 1-800-720-9553 for clinics near you. You may also visit our website at <http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/Services/Pertussis.aspx> for clinic dates, times and locations. See new hours:

http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/Portals/0/documents/FCC_Tdap_Extended_Hours.pdf

Please bring your child's immunization record. There will be a \$10 administration fee.

The county has about 228,120 students between 7th and 12th grades who will need to provide proof of immunization before starting school. This new requirement applies to all public and private schools and takes effect July 1. One recent informal survey indicated that only about 20 percent of students had received the required vaccine.

Riverside County parents are being urged not to wait for the new school year to begin, since there will be no grace period. Under the new law, students will not be allowed to start school without proof of vaccination.

The Riverside County Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the Riverside County Office of Education, have been working together to bring attention to the issue and get more students vaccinated before the new school year.

Health and education officials are encouraging parents to take their children to a family doctor for the vaccine or make an appointment at one of 10 Public Health Family Care Centers in Riverside County if they do not have insurance. For more information, please visit <http://www.ShotsforSchool.org>.