



News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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CDPH Director Urges Parents Don't Wait Till the Last Minute to Immunize Your Kids for School

SACRAMENTO – With schools around the state starting the fall session, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director Dr. Ron Chapman urged parents to make sure their kids' vaccinations are up to date to help ensure their children get a healthy start to the new school year.

"As a parent myself, I know how difficult it is to remember everything you need to do to get your child ready for school," said Chapman. "Putting vaccinations at the top of the list ensures your child can be enrolled on time and with the best protection from diseases throughout the school year."

Most parents are aware of existing laws that require whooping cough, measles and other vaccinations before children start kindergarten. However, a new law now requires a whooping cough booster before middle and high school students can re-enter school this fall.

"It's important for parents to understand whooping cough continues to be a threat," said Chapman. "The booster shot helps protect kids from what can be a deadly disease."

Chapman urges parents to make an appointment with their provider now to protect themselves and their families during the pertussis peak season, which is traditionally summer and fall.

Many local school districts, county clinics and mobile vans are set up throughout the state to provide free and low-cost vaccines. Governor Brown recently signed legislation that allows schools to opt to extend the deadline for proof of vaccination by 30 days beyond the first day of school.

"Schools, counties and the state are working together to get the word out to parents," said Chapman.

For the most complete and up-to-date information on required vaccinations, visit shotsforschool.org.

