DATE: October 13, 2010  
TO: Medical Providers  
FROM: Karen Furst, MD, MPH, Health Officer  

HEALTH ADVISORY  

Topics:  
- Influenza Reporting  
- Influenza Vaccine Recommendations  
- New Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) Requirement for School Children  

Influenza Reporting for the 2010/2011 Season  
Although the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic is officially over, it is important during the post-pandemic flu season to continue surveillance to monitor for prevalence of the Pandemic H1N1 strain compared to other influenza strains, the severity of the currently circulating strains and impact to various populations. To this end, during the upcoming influenza season the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is requesting ongoing reporting of laboratory diagnosed influenza in certain populations. Therefore we are requesting the medical community in San Joaquin County to report the following patients with laboratory confirmed influenza:  
- Influenza deaths for ages 0-64 years old. (This is an expansion from the currently mandated reporting of influenza deaths in 0-17 years old; CCR Title 17, §2500.)  
- Influenza cases in children requiring intensive care, ages 0-17 years.  
- Influenza in pregnant women who either require intensive care or die.  

Laboratory confirmation for influenza includes any positive test performed by a clinical, commercial or public health laboratory, including by positive rapid antigen test*, direct fluorescence assay, culture or polymerase chain reaction (PCR). For the above reported cases we also request that the specimens be sent to the San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPhS) Laboratory for further sub-typing (phone: 468-3460).  

For questions on influenza reporting call SJCPhS Communicable Disease Program at 468-3822.  

*Rapid antigen tests may have a higher proportion of false positive results when influenza prevalence is low. It is recommended that positive rapid antigen tests be followed up with confirmatory testing using one of the other methods. This testing may be requested from the SJCPhS Laboratory (468-3460).  

Influenza Vaccine Recommendations for the 2010/11 Season  
- This season’s vaccine contains the 2009 A/H1N1 Pandemic influenza strain as well as an influenza A/H3N2 strain and an influenza B strain.  
- Seasonal influenza vaccine is now recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
– Many children 6 months to 8 years will need 2 doses of seasonal flu vaccine to be protected:
  • Those who did not receive the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza vaccine or received only one dose.
  • Those who never received a seasonal flu vaccine
  • Those who received a seasonal flu vaccine for the first time last year but only one dose.
  • Those whose vaccination status is unknown.

– Patients who received the 2009 H1N1 pandemic influenza vaccine in spring 2010 still need the seasonal vaccine.
– A new high-dose influenza vaccine was recently FDA approved for seniors ≥65 years. Current data are insufficient to determine if the high dose vaccine is more effective.
– Morbid obesity (BMI ≥40) in adults is a new risk factor for influenza complications.
– For more information: http://www.cdc.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip

**New Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) Requirement for School Children**

Assembly Bill 354 was recently signed into law requiring pertussis vaccinations (Tdap) for certain students prior to the start of the school year beginning July 1, 2011.

• All students entering 7th through 12th grades will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school for the 2011-12 school year only.

• All students entering the 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school beginning July 1, 2012, and beyond.

**It is important that doctors begin now and utilize every opportunity to get your patients who are currently in 6th to 11th grades into your offices for this vaccine so they will be up to date before the next school year begins. This is a very large number of students that need to be vaccinated in the next 8 months. Everyone’s concerted effort is needed to ensure this is accomplished and children do not miss school due to missing this vaccination.**

**For detailed information on the pertussis vaccine requirements see the attached letter from the California Department of Public Health.** Updates on implementing this new law will be posted in the future at www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx, which currently has general information about pertussis disease and immunization.

For questions on ordering Tdap vaccine call San Joaquin County Public Health Services Immunization Program at 468-3481.
EARLY ALERT TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
Assembly Bill 354 Becomes Law
2011 Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Immunization Requirements for Students
September 30, 2010

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread, including nine infant deaths, in California during 2010. The California Department of Public Health recommends that all Californians 10 years and older receive a booster shot against pertussis (also known as “Tdap”). Moreover, Assembly Bill 354, now chaptered into California law, requires students to be immunized against pertussis\(^2\):

For the 2011-12 school year only, all students entering 7\(^{th}\) through 12\(^{th}\) grades will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school. This requirement:
- Begins July 1, 2011.
- Will be met by receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10\(^{th}\) birthday.
- Applies to all public and private schools.
- Does not affect students enrolled in summer school.

Beginning July 1, 2012, and beyond, all students entering the 7\(^{th}\) grade will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school.

These requirements apply to millions of students in California. Please utilize every opportunity to provide a Tdap booster shot to adolescents and adults (10 years and older) who haven’t yet received it. Give Tdap now to your unimmunized patients to protect them against the current threat and to meet the forthcoming school requirement. Schools may send communications about the Tdap requirement to the parents of your patients.

The California Immunization Registry (CAIR) is directly accessed by many schools to check student immunization records. We encourage you to join CAIR to help meet the new Tdap booster shot requirement (click here for CAIR contact information).

Updates on implementing this new law will be posted later in the 2010-2011 school year at www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx, which currently has general information about pertussis disease and immunization.

\(^1\) “Tdap” = Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine.
\(^2\) Exemptions permitted for verified medical conditions or personal beliefs.