

As of August 3, 2010, 2,492 cases of pertussis, including 7 deaths in young infants, have been reported in 2010 to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This is a 6-fold increase in cases from the same interval in 2009 and likely to be the most reported cases in over 50 years. In most of the fatal cases, pertussis was not diagnosed until after multiple visits to outpatient clinics, the emergency room, or inpatient wards.

To protect your patients against pertussis, CDPH urges all you and all health care providers to review the [letter recently sent to acute care hospitals by CDPH Licensing and Certification](#). The letter reviews timely diagnosis and treatment, the [expanded CDPH recommendations for pertussis vaccination](#), and links to other important resources. The recently updated poster, [Pertussis is Epidemic in California: Protect Infants, Adolescents & Adults!](#), is also available at: <http://eziz.org/PDF/IMM-1015H.pdf> for all health care providers and institutions.

As reminders:

- **Immunize staff:** Effective September 1, 2010, the [Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standard](#) requires all hospitals, outpatient medical facilities, and other employers covered by the standard to offer Tdap immunization to their employees who may be exposed to pertussis. Employees who decline to be vaccinated must sign a declination form.
- **Report cases:** Health care providers, their employers and laboratories are mandated by California [laws and regulations](#) to report cases of pertussis to their [local health officers](#) within one working day of identification. [Title 17, CCR §2500, §2593, §2641.5-2643.2, and §2800-2812; and the Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standard]

For additional resources about pertussis for health care providers and patients, please visit: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx>.

The latest CDPH press release on pertussis can be found at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/NR10-051.aspx>.

Letter of Aug. 3, 2010 from California Department of Public Health to all General Acute Care Hospitals: <http://www.mbc.ca.gov/lnc-afl-10-24.pdf>