



Larry Meredith, Ph.D., Director

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH - PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Fred Schwartz, MD, Public Health Officer

November 15, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

As you are no doubt aware, Marin County has been on the front lines of the statewide pertussis outbreak this year. We continue to have the second highest rate of cases in California.

We, along with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are especially concerned about the frequency of cases in the 7-10 year old age group. Many of the persons in our County who were diagnosed with pertussis in this age group showed a history of having been fully vaccinated, which parallels the statewide experience. The CDC has been conducting an assessment to evaluate vaccine efficacy, and in cooperation with CDPH, will be coming to our County to review provider records. This will help evaluate if vaccine protection is waning earlier than previously thought.

The CDC will be sending Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officers to our County this month to attempt to gather this information from provider offices and records. The scope of work for the assessment covers children aged 4-10, and information on age, county of residence, number of pertussis doses given, dates of vaccine administration, vaccine product and lot number will be collected for cases and controls. This information will be collected from Marin and 14 other counties in California participating in the study.

On behalf of the CDC, I am asking that you agree to participate in this important endeavor to evaluate vaccine efficacy and duration of effectiveness. You should be hearing from the EIS officers soon, and I ask that you alert your office staff to this forthcoming request to gain access to the medical records of your patients. The Marin Health Department has already submitted some of this information, but cannot give them all the information needed to conduct a robust evaluation of the DTaP vaccine. This study should require a minimum of time from your staff.

Thank you for your time and consideration in helping with this important evaluation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anju Goel".

Anju Goel, MD, MPH
Deputy Public Health Officer

Department of Health & Human Services