

## *INFORMATIONAL LETTER TO PARENTS REGARDING PERTUSSIS*

*We would like to take this opportunity to share information about pertussis, also known as whooping cough.*

*As many of you know there has been a recent increase in the number of cases of pertussis in Maine. It is important that parents are aware that even though your child may be fully immunized, there is a chance for them to contract the disease, although a milder case. No vaccination is 100% effective, however the pertussis vaccine is about 85% effective.*

*Attached is the Pertussis fact sheet from the CDC (Center for Disease Control), with links for more information. FAQs of the Tdap rule 126.*

*Please contact your child's health care provider to make sure they are up to date on their immunizations. Adults should also have a Tdap to prevent them from contracting the disease. This not only protects you and your child but also small children who cannot be fully immunized and the elderly who are at a greater risk for the disease.*

*We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the new law, regarding the pertussis booster that takes effect in the fall of 2017:*

**Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, all students entering, advancing, or transferring into seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) grade will need to receive one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine before attendance is allowed. This requirement is for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students only; grades 8-12 are not included in this rule change.**

*FAQs of the Tdap rule 126 is attached*

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