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California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

August 1, 2013

TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Maria Volk, M.P.A., Acting Chief *Maria E. Volk*  
Center for Infectious Diseases  
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: DTaP Vaccination Practices Survey — Please complete by August 31, 2013

**As you know, California experienced a pertussis epidemic in 2010, with more than 10,000 cases of pertussis reported. Pertussis incidence is cyclical, and there are typically peaks in incidence every 3 to 5 years. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has recently received reports of increases in pertussis cases in certain California regions; therefore, we are concerned that 2013 could be another peak pertussis year.**

During the 2010 California pertussis epidemic, CDPH recommended that providers accelerate the infant DTaP vaccine schedule starting at six weeks of age, with the hope of providing earlier protection and possibly preventing some cases of severe disease among infants. The purpose of this short survey is to determine whether providers implemented the accelerated DTaP schedule in 2010 and what barriers they may have encountered in doing so. Your responses will help us understand the practicality of recommending an accelerated infant DTaP vaccination schedule this year or during future pertussis epidemics.

**Please click on the link below to access the survey. The survey should take less than 10 minutes and should be completed by August 31. Please complete only one survey per practice setting. If you have received this email but are not able to complete the survey, please forward this email to the appropriate person in your practice. Thank you!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/STDHBHQ>

If you have any questions about this communication, please contact your VFC Representative or VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832.