



Media Advisory

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DIAL 211 FOR WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE INFORMATION

SAN FRANCISCO, September 28 – Fall is peak season for the highly contagious disease known as pertussis (whooping cough), which is characterized by severe coughing. So far, there have been more than 4,000 reported cases in California in 2010 -- seven times the number seen in a typical year.

Vaccination is the best defense against whooping cough. Information about pertussis vaccinations in the Bay Area is available in more than 150 languages by simply dialing 211. Your local 211 call center can answer questions, such as:

- Where is the vaccine available in my county?
- How much does it cost?
- Who is eligible to receive the vaccine?

Residents who can't dial 211 can call 800-273-6222 to reach the 211 call center in their area. For the hearing impaired, dial 415-808-4440 (TTY) or 711.

About 211

Launched throughout the Bay Area in February 2008, 211 is an easy-to-remember, toll-free phone number that connects callers with local community services, such as food, shelter, counseling, employment assistance, quality child care and more. During a disaster, 211 provides critical information about evacuation routes, food and shelter, as well as support with finding new jobs and permanent housing during long-term recovery. 211 is confidential and available 24 hours a day in more than 150 languages. 211 Bay Area is operated by United Way of the Bay Area, United Way Silicon Valley, United Way of the Wine Country, Eden I&R, and Contra Costa Crisis Center. 211 is available in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma Counties. For more information, visit www.211BayArea.org.

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