



Weekly Provider News

August 5, 2015

Prenatal Immunizations Combat Pertussis Risk

Pertussis continues to spread at above-normal levels in California. Disease rates and risks of hospitalization and death are highest for infants under the age of one.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith are warning parents about the continued dangers of pertussis (whooping cough). The disease has already caused one infant death and at least 126 infant hospitalizations in California this year.

The Alliance encourages providers to give expecting mothers a pertussis vaccine (Tdap) **during the third trimester**. Prenatal vaccination will help protect newborn children until they are old enough to receive their own vaccination against pertussis.

Questions?

Contact your Provider Services Representative or call Provider Services at (800) 700-3874 ext. 5504