

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Vaccine

7/12/10 - The vaccine for pertussis comes combined with the tetanus and diphtheria vaccines (Tdap) which are routinely given to children in their first years of life and to adults every 10 years. Besides infants, those who especially need the vaccine protection are pregnant women in their 3rd trimester because they will soon have contact with their unprotected infant. Mothers have been found to be the greatest source of transmitting whooping cough to the newborn.

The Santa Cruz County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) is the only agency with free pertussis vaccine for county residents who are uninsured or underinsured. The county clinics are located at 1080 Emeline Ave in Santa Cruz (454-4100) and 9 Crestview Drive in Watsonville (763-8400). Both clinics are open 1-4p.m. Monday through Friday.

The SCCPHD policy is to charge a \$15 administration fee for each vaccination; however, no one will be turned away if unable to pay. People with health insurance should contact their primary care provider about the vaccine.