

Health Alert:

News alerts! Financial alerts! Weather alerts! Government alerts! Health Alerts! Oh my gosh!

Is there any peace in today's world? Is it any wonder why we just turn a tired eye and ignore what use to be *minimal* notices and warnings saved ONLY for news that is more serious? Do you ever see the "News Alert" news ticker flashing across the television screen; drop everything you are doing to turn up the volume to see what is so important, only to find out that it is nothing more than just a minor update on a previous story; an update certainly not "Alert" worthy! Can you just feel the frustration?

Our days are full of appointments, meetings, chores, work and reading that when we hear of yet another alert, unfortunately, we are not prone to take any of them seriously...unless of course they are airing the same story on every television channel that you are tuned into while trying to relax at home with something more lighthearted.

Although I cannot control the media and all its alerts, I can tell you that if we have a Health issue or an Emergency situation here in California, even in Kings County, you can find the latest updates on our home page at www.kingscountyoem.com.



Since California has had two health issues the past few weeks, Pertussis, otherwise known as Whooping Cough, and two reported West Nile Virus human cases, we have moved our "Health Alert" section to the top upper right hand corner of our website for easy access to information you need in a timely matter. Just a click and you are informed with the latest.

Kings County | Office of Emergency Management

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Kings County Office of Emergency Management Team
Sabrina Bustamante, Emergency Response Coordinator, (left) Trudy Maletta, Emergency Services Manager (center), and Elizabeth Hall, Emergency Services Specialist (right). Photo by Paul Calkins

Emergency Preparedness Fact of the Week

Weather Updates
[Link to NOAA](#)

Health Alert:

- [CDPH - Recommends Vaccinating Against Whooping Cough](#)
- [Whooping Cough Information](#)
- [Read about current West Nile Cases \(PDF\)](#)

Emergency Updates

- **West Nile Updates**
Two women in Stanislaus County are the first confirmed human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) infection in California this year.
[Link > WNV Update \(PDF\)](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Download PDF Reader](#)
www.westnile.ca.gov

FIGHT THE BITE!

[West Nile Preparedness Resources](#)

Health Connection Hotline

By clicking on the first link, “CDPH Recommends Vaccinating against Whooping Cough”, it will take you to the latest news release regarding Whooping Cough. CDPH’s Chief of the Center for Infectious Disease, Dr. Gilberto Chávez, has stated *“We are facing what could be the worst year for Pertussis that this state has seen in more than 50 years.”* This release has some important information you need as well as links at the bottom for more information. Information in Spanish is also available.

There is also another link to Pertussis information as well as the news release regarding the two West Nile Virus (WNV) cases in California with links to the resources and information you need to know regarding the West Nile Virus and how to protect yourself.

Main Points YOU need to know about Pertussis.

- Pertussis is a very contagious disease that can spread very quickly.
- The first dose of the vaccine is generally given at 2 months of age.
- The CDC recommends starting at 6 weeks during this epidemic.
- Since the vaccine is given so young, it wanes after about 10 years, so almost 90% of teens and adults are no longer fully immunized. With this in mind, it is recommended that these individuals receive a booster.
- Newborns are helpless and it takes just one breath to infect them.
- It is the young infant that is too young to vaccinate and infants not yet fully immunized who are at the greatest risk. This is just one reason why it is so important that teens and adults, especially those around infants, receive a booster vaccine for Pertussis.

What Kings County Health Department Can Do For You.

Protect Babies – Get Immunized

Who:	All adults and teens near infants
What:	Tdap – Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine
Where:	Kings County Health Department – 559-584-1401 330 Campus Drive, Hanford
When:	Walk-in: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Why:	Because it protects babies
Cost:	\$5.00 or free if unable to pay

There are short documented stories and video clips of parents sharing their Pertussis stories that is quite moving. I suggest when you have a few moments to check them out. The link to them is <http://shotbyshot.org/story-gallery#Pertussis>.

May I suggest two in particular? The first one is entitled “*A Pertussis Story*”, a short 3:31 minute clip. The second one is entitled “*Dylan’s Story*”, a 5.38 minute clip.

There are also two stories in Spanish on this same page. They are not; however, video clips, but stories written in Spanish. The first is entitled “*La Historia de Vanessa*”, a story of an infant. The second, “*La Historia de Samantha*” a story of a teen. I myself did not realize the seriousness of Pertussis until I viewed these stories. They are really worth viewing and I hope you take the time to look them up.

Remember, knowledge is power, and I hope you pass along this information to your family and friends. You may think this topic does not pertain to you, but chances are someone you know will benefit from this information and you could make the difference in someone’s life. Pass it on!

Resources:

www.shotbyshot.org

Immunization schedule: Kings County Health Department

Created by Elizabeth Hall for Preparedness Fact of the Week

July 26, 2010

www.kingscountyoem.com

