



# Placer County Health and Human Services Department

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Health Officer and Department Director

Mark Starr, D.V.M., M.P.V.M.  
Community Health & Clinics, Director

Dear Parent/Guardian:

January 25, 2011

RE: No Cost Vaccination Clinics

### Flu and Pertussis Information

Influenza (“flu”) season begins in late fall and continues to cause illness throughout the winter and spring. Health officials believe that the numbers of cases will continue to increase throughout the State. School-aged children tend to have higher rates of influenza because of their close contact with friends and classmates who frequently spread germs among one another. **A flu vaccine can help children stay free of influenza during the flu season, and potentially help stop the spread of the virus to their families, friends, teachers and communities.**

Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. It is very serious for babies and can cause them to cough so much that they cannot breathe. **Everybody in the family should be immunized against pertussis to protect themselves and the baby at home.** California is in the midst of the largest pertussis epidemic in over 60 years; the number of cases reported so far this season is more than five times the number for the same period a year ago.

### Vaccine Information

The Placer County Department of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with our school districts located in Placer County and the California Department of Public Health, has a unique opportunity to provide a no cost **flu** and **Tdap** (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination clinic. Flu vaccinations are for anyone over the age of 6 months. Tdap vaccinations are for those aged 10 and older, and are most important for those individuals that may have contact with infants (parents, siblings or other close relatives of infants; childcare providers; babysitters; etc.). The flu vaccination covers three strains of influenza, including H1N1. Flu mist, the nasal mist vaccine, will be available. The Tdap vaccination is a booster for the Dtap (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) vaccinations your child received between the ages of 6 months and five years.

Coordinating with your health care provider is most important for you and your children’s overall health. However, for those who do not have ready access to a health care provider or vaccinations, we hope this clinic will provide a valuable opportunity to get immunized against flu and pertussis.

**The clinic schedule is attached. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please bring your child’s immunization record with you.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Klayman, Immunization Coordinator, Placer County Community Health 530 889-7125.

Sincerely,

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Health Officer and Department Director

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Community Health, Clinics & Animal Services Director