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Pertussis Update for San Francisco Clinicians

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A pertussis epidemic was declared in California on June 18, 2010. California is experiencing a **peak year** for **pertussis**, its worst since 2005. To date, there have been 910 cases of pertussis reported in California in 2010, which is a 4-fold increase from the number of reported cases during the same time period in 2009 when 219 cases were reported. An additional 600 cases are under investigation. There have been 5 infant deaths (compared to an average of ~ 3 deaths/year), all of whom were Hispanic and less than 3 months of age. Actual 2010 case numbers, especially nonfatal cases, are even higher because of delayed reporting.

San Francisco is also experiencing an increase in pertussis cases, with 26 cases reported between January 1, 2010 and June 22, 2010. This is already higher than the number of cases reported per year for the past 2 years (20 cases in 2009 and 15 cases in 2008).

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) urges all San Francisco clinicians to be alert for cases of pertussis and to promote immunization to prevent disease. All children and adults should be up-to-date with pertussis containing vaccination, especially health care workers and those with close contact to infants. Please see the attached "**Quick Guide for San Francisco Clinicians**" for guidance on reporting, infection control precautions, diagnostic testing, antibiotic treatment, immunization, and how to prevent the spread of the disease.