**Iowa Department of Public Health Exploring New Vaccine Requirement**

The Iowa Department of Public Health , Bureau of Immunization, is exploring a secondary school Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine requirement. Currently, Iowa is only one of 10 states without a Tdap mandate at the secondary school level.

Pertussis or whooping cough is caused by *Bordetella pertussis* and causes epidemics every three to five years. In 2010, there were 705 confirmed and probable cases of pertussis reported to IDPH, which accounts for a 229% increase in activity over the previous three years average and a 69% increase over the past five years average. Immunization assessment data shows in 2010, 58% of Iowa’s children 13-17 years of age had received one dose of Tdap vaccine. The secondary school vaccine requirement will help Iowa achieve and maintain high vaccination adolescent coverage levels while reducing the number of pertussis cases occurring annually in Iowa.

In 2012, the Immunization Program will begin the rule making process for the secondary school Tdap requirement which will most likely be implemented at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year. The mission of the Immunization Program is to decrease vaccine-preventable diseases through education, advocacy, and partnership. More information will be made available as the rule making process is completed.