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For Immediate Release
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BUTTE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERING FREE PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH) VACCINATIONS

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – Butte County Public Health Department will be offering FREE pertussis vaccinations for adults and children age 11 years and older during the month of September.

The vaccinations will be provided in **Chico and Oroville** by **appointment only**. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 538-2840 for Oroville or 891-2732 for Chico. The vaccine being offered (Tdap) protects against diphtheria and tetanus as well as pertussis.

“Pertussis or Whooping Cough is at epidemic levels in California this year. Vaccination protects not only you and your child, it helps provide a circle of protection around infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated”, stated Mark Lundberg, M.D., Health Officer for Butte County Public Health Department.

Children who received the pertussis vaccine (DTap) as infants or young children need to receive an adolescent booster shot beginning at age 11 because the protection wears off over time. Adults should also get vaccinated against pertussis, especially women of childbearing age (before, during, or immediately after pregnancy) and anyone who has contact with pregnant women or infants.

Pertussis starts with a cough and runny nose for one to two weeks followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that may end with a whooping sound. Pertussis is a highly contagious disease and infants are particularly vulnerable. In California as of August 24, 2010, there have been 3,311 confirmed, probable and suspect cases of pertussis and 8 deaths reported this year. This is the highest number of pertussis cases reported in 52 years. In Butte County there have been 13 cases of pertussis and no related deaths reported to the Health Department.

For more information on Pertussis please visit the Butte County Public Health Department website at www.buttecounty.net/publichealth.

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COUGH) VACCINATIONS— 2

For further information, contact: Dr. Mark Lundberg, Health Officer,
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Butte County Public Health Department

Our Mission: To protect the public through promoting individual,
community and environmental health.