



# Memo

**To:** ALL PAEMS Agencies

**From:** PAEMS Office

**Date:** July 24, 2012

**Re:** Pertussis Vaccinations

---

To protect our patients, we must establish a process to ensure that all of our students are immunized against Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is an upper respiratory infection caused by the *Bordetella pertussis* or *Bordetella parapertussis* bacteria. It is a serious disease that can cause permanent disability in infants, and even death.

Whooping cough can affect people of any age. Before vaccines were widely available, the disease was most common in infants and young children. Now that most children are immunized before entering school, the higher percentage of cases is seen among adolescents and adults.

For the protection of our patients, all employees and students having direct patient contact or working in a clinical area of the medical center will be required to receive this vaccination.

If you have already been immunized, you will need to provide verification to The PAEMS Office prior to starting any clinical rotation.

If you have not been immunized, you will need to have your primary care physician or other provider administer the vaccine to you and provide verification to The PAEMS Office.

This is an urgent matter requiring your immediate attention. You must present proof of your vaccination to The PAEMS Office by September 30, 2012.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and your dedication to the health and safety of our patients.

---