



**Bayside Medical Group, Inc.**

[www.baysidemed.com](http://www.baysidemed.com)

# Pertussis

## Whooping Cough

*We are in the middle of an epidemic of whooping cough in California. As of June 15, 2010, there have been 910 cases of pertussis and 5 infant deaths reported in California in 2010. The babies became ill at 5 days to 8 weeks of age.*

- **We are going to immunize babies against pertussis starting at 6 weeks.** With this illness, babies can cough so much that they cannot breathe. Hundreds of babies are hospitalized each year for pertussis, and some die from it.
- **All adults, especially those around babies, should be immunized with Tdap.** Adults give the disease to babies. If you need this vaccine, we can give it to you here at Bayside.
- **All 11 year olds and up should be immunized with Tdap.** Coughing in spasms until you lose your breath—day and night for three months—is common with pertussis. Coughing spasms are severe enough that ribs sometimes break.

**It's preventable.**