Think they're too old for immunizations?

Think again.

Pertussis (whooping cough) spreads easily by coughing and sneezing. It causes mild to severe coughing spells that usually get worse at night and can last for months. Whooping cough can cause broken ribs and pneumonia.

Get Tdap. Ask your doctor or nurse for Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine for your children and teens 11 and older, as well as for yourself. Your doctor knows that one dose of Tdap is recommended for everyone aged 11 through 64 years old. Tdap should replace one routine tetanus (Td) shot.

To attend sixth grade in Washington State, students 11 and older must show proof of Tdap vaccination if it's been more than five years since their last tetanus shot.

As a parent, you may choose to exempt your child from the school Tdap requirement. However, know the risks: your child won't have the best protection from pertussis and may be excluded from school during an outbreak.

Protect your kids and yourself from whooping cough.
Get Tdap to keep from spreading it to others.

Washington State Department of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH
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DOH 348-120 December 2007

For more information on the Tdap vaccine, visit:
www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize

Washington State Department of Health

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