

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6/28/2017**

TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

Kari Hitzroth, Public Health Nurse  
509-766-7960 ext. 13

## **Pertussis Cases in Grant County** **Update-12 Confirmed Cases of Pertussis**

**GRANT COUNTY, WA** –Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has issued the following alert to the Grant County healthcare community: Grant County Health District (GCHD) staff are investigating 12 laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis in Ephrata and Moses Lake. None of the cases have been hospitalized. **Some cases are linked suggesting a possibility of cluster related to school attendance. There is the potential for more cases to occur.** All family, “close” contacts have been notified by GCHD, offered and started on post-exposure prophylaxis.

### **Actions Requested and Testing**

When evaluating patients suspected for pertussis, please test, treat, and isolate those who are symptomatic. Practitioners evaluating contacts to a recent case of pertussis should also consider a post-exposure prophylaxis with appropriate antibiotics. The priority for post-exposure prophylaxis should be assigned to those who may transmit pertussis to persons at high risk for pertussis. High risk is defined as:

1. Infants < 1 year old.
2. Pregnant women (particularly in their third trimester).
3. Anyone who may expose infants < 1 year old or pregnant women.
  - a. e.g., members of a household with infants or pregnant women,
  - b. child care workers who take care of infants < 1 year old,
  - c. health care workers and childbirth educators with face-to-face contact with infants < 1 year old or pregnant women.

**It is appropriate to offer vaccine (Tdap) to all individuals without a proof of immunity.**

### **Case Investigation Process**

GCHD is proceeding with the pertussis case investigation per DOH guidelines and protocol. This consists of gathering information through interviews and site visits. GCHD is compiling a registry of contacts and evaluating their exposure risk based upon several factors, including but not limited to exposure proximity, time or duration of exposure and underlying medical status. Once an assessment of these conditions is evaluated, GCHD is contacting and further evaluating risk based on more detailed interviews with individuals.



## **Reporting Requirements:**

**Healthcare providers, healthcare facilities, laboratories:** notifiable to GCHD as soon as possible (within 24 hours) with all positive test results. Call GCHD and speak with a public health nurse if you have any questions- 509-766-7960.

Symptoms of pertussis usually develop within 5 to 10 days; but can present up to 3 weeks following exposure.

**Early symptoms** can last for 1 to 2 weeks and usually include:

- Runny nose
- Low-grade fever (generally minimal throughout the course of the disease)
- Mild, occasional cough
- Apnea – a pause in breathing (in babies)

Because pertussis in its early stages appears to be nothing more than the common cold, it is often not suspected or diagnosed until the more severe symptoms appear.

**Late symptoms-** After 1 to 2 weeks and as the disease progresses, the traditional symptoms of pertussis may appear and include:

- Paroxysms (fits) of many, rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched "whoop"
- Vomiting during or after coughing fits
- Exhaustion after coughing fits

## **Resources**

[Washington State Department of Health Pertussis Guidelines](#) | WA- DOH

[Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals](#) | CDC

## **Consultation**

Kari Hitzroth, Public Health Nurse

509-766-7960 ext. 12 or [khitzroth@granthealth.org](mailto:khitzroth@granthealth.org)

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