

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 8/3/2017**

TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**Kari Hitzroth, Public Health Nurse  
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## **Pertussis Cases in Grant County**

### **Update-56 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 continues to respond to an outbreak of pertussis in Grant County with continued clusters of ill individuals in Ephrata and Moses Lake. Since beginning of June 2017, 56 individuals in Grant County have been confirmed as having acquired pertussis, with additional tests pending. Moses Lake has 38 confirmed cases, Ephrata has 16, and Warden has 1. GCHD staff are working to identify all “close” and high risk contacts of ill individuals to be offered post-exposure prophylaxis.

With the start of school around the corner and in an effort to control the spread of pertussis, GCHD staff are working with school administrators and nurses to notify families and get their child’s immunizations up-to-date. WAC 246-105-030 requires a pertussis vaccine (Tdap and Dtap) for school entry which is to be enforced by the school districts.

#### **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
  - a. e.g., members of a household with infants
  - 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

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

#### **Pertussis vaccine schedule:**

1. Babies need 4 DTap vaccines (at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 15-18 months old),
2. 5<sup>th</sup> DTap vaccine at 4-6 years old,
3. Older children need the Tdap booster at > 10 years old/ before entry into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, or after 7 years of age if not properly immunized with DTap according the schedule,
4. All adults need at least onetime Tdap vaccine; pregnant women need one Tdap each pregnancy.

**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 and questions- 509-766-7960.

**Resources**

[Washington State Department of Health Pertussis Guidelines](#) | WA- DOH  
[Vaccination Information for Healthcare Professionals](#) | CDC

**Consultation**

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