

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6/15/2017**

TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

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## Pertussis Cases in Grant County

**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 two laboratory confirmed cases and one epi-linked case of pertussis in Ephrata. All cases are in all school age children and all fully immunized. None of the cases have been hospitalized. 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.

Pertussis is a very contagious disease only found in humans. People with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing, sneezing or when spending a lot of time near one another where you share breathing space. Many babies who get pertussis are infected by older siblings, parents, or caregivers who might not even know they have the disease.

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

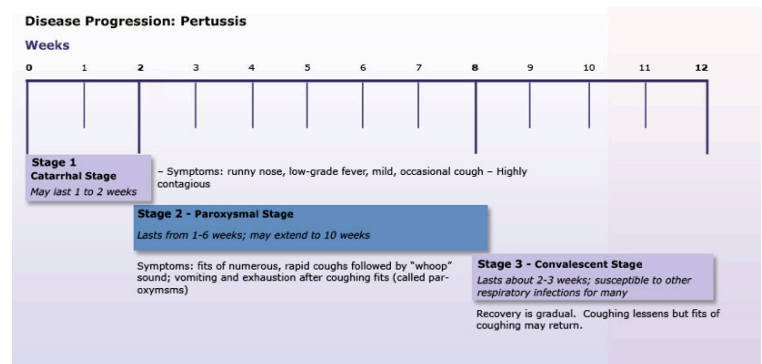
**Early symptoms** can last for 1 to 2 weeks and usually include:

- 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



## **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.

## **Resources**

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

## **Consultation**

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