

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 04/29/2019

TO: Grant County Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACTCassandra Kelly, Public Information Officer
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GCHD Staff are Investigating 1 Individual with Laboratory Confirmed Whooping Cough

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has issued the following alert to the Grant County media: Grant County Health District (GCHD) staff are investigating one Grant County resident with a laboratory-confirmed case of whooping cough (pertussis). **There is the potential for more cases to occur.** All family members with a close contact to those with whooping cough have been notified by GCHD and offered post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with antibiotics.

Several locations in our community where the individual with whooping cough was present have been identified:

Approximate locations, dates & times include:

Confluence Health, Moses Lake

04/22/2019 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

04/24/2019 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Samaritan Clinic

04/23/2019 3:30 pm-5:00 p.m.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious disease spread through droplets coughed or sneezed into the air and/or onto surfaces. It starts with a cough which becomes much worse over 1-2 weeks. **If you have symptoms of whooping cough AND think you may have been exposed, please discuss this with your healthcare provider or call GCHD and speak with a Public Health Nurse (509-766-7960).** It is important to wear a mask (when available) covering your mouth and nose when you visit your doctor's office to help stop the spread of the disease. Always follow medical directives and stay isolated from others until it is determined that you are not contagious.

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 whooping cough 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 whooping cough 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

It is important to follow the immunizations scheduled because immunity from the Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine or disease wears off. The vaccine is particularly important to those who could expose infants (pregnant women, family members, healthcare and daycare workers, etc.) and where the disease can spread rapidly (schools, hospitals, etc.).

Below is the recommended Whooping Cough vaccine schedule:

1. Babies need 4 DTaP vaccines (at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 15-18 months old),
2. 5th DTaP vaccine at 4-6 years old,
3. Older children need the Tdap booster at > 10 years old/ before entry into the 6th 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.

Please contact your doctor/healthcare clinic or a GCHD nurse if you would like more information. Vaccination is available at healthcare clinics and many pharmacies.

Addition Resources

[Washington State Department of Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Grant County Health District](#)

Consultation

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