

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK
HEALTH DISTRICT 4

PERTUSSIS ALERT FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Central District Health Department Urges Medical Providers to Test Suspected
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Cases in Infants, Teenagers, and Adults

February 20, 2014

From January 1st to February 19th of 2014, 35 probable and confirmed cases of pertussis were reported in Idaho. This is a 60 percent increase in Idaho cases compared to the previous year. Twice as many cases of pertussis were reported to Central District Health Department (CDHD) over the last two months compared to the same time period last year. The cases are primarily in infants and school children (i.e. 5 to 12 years old).

Children and adults are significant sources of transmission to unvaccinated infants. Diagnosing the disease early in a child or adult may help save an infant's life. Think pertussis, or it may be missed.

Laboratory Testing

Please swab and test whenever possible. Recommended laboratory tests include polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or culture on a nasopharyngeal swab. Testing recommendations can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-confirmation.html>

Prevention in the Household and Community

To stop the spread of disease, antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended for the case and all household contacts. Azithromycin, clarithromycin, and erythromycin are all effective choices for both prophylaxis and treatment. Treatment information can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5414a1.htm>

Immunization continues to be an important part of the control for whooping cough, especially for families with infants. Immunization recommendations and schedules can be found on CDC's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/index.html>

For additional information contact the Office of Communicable Disease Control at 327-8625 or the CDHD Shot Line at 321-2229.

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