



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

From: Cass County Health Department
Through: Kansas City, Missouri Health Department (KCHD)
KCHD HAN Number: KC 001-09
Date: 01/14/2009
Subject: **Pertussis Situation in Cass, Bates and Henry Counties in Missouri**

Fourteen (14) cases of pertussis have now been diagnosed in Cass, Bates and Henry Counties. The Cass County Health Department continues to recommends the following:

- Consider pertussis when evaluating any infant, child, youth, or adult with an acute cough illness characterized by prolonged cough or cough with paroxysms, whoop, or post-tussive gagging/vomiting. Infants may present with apnea and/or cyanosis.
- Report known or suspected cases promptly to the health department. Michele Lukenbill, RN at (816) 380-8432.
- The diagnostic gold standard for pertussis is a positive culture result. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, State Public Health Laboratory has a collection/transport kit available for pertussis culturing. Please contact them at (573) 751-4830 to obtain a kit. The lab will provide free testing when the following information is provided:

Person's name authorized to receive phone results: Michele Lukenbill, RN
Facility phone number: (816) 380-8432
Facility Name: Cass County Health Department
Facility Address: 300 S. Main, Harrisonville, MO 64701

If you choose to send the specimen to the state lab, please indicate your office name and phone number somewhere on the form so we can contact you with results. If you must refer a patient to the health department for testing, please call Michele Lukenbill at (816) 380-8432.

- Treatment for pertussis, as well as chemoprophylaxis for exposed persons, consists of appropriately-prescribed regimens of azithromycin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.
- Exposed susceptible persons should receive chemoprophylaxis. Exposure is defined as face-to-face contact, direct contact with respiratory, oral, or nasal secretions, or being in the same room or ward with a coughing pertussis case-patient. Because the protective efficacy of pertussis immunization wanes after the last vaccine dose, the great majority of teenagers and adults are susceptible to pertussis, even if they were immunized in childhood. Persons with symptoms should be given leave from work and allowed to return when they are well, another diagnosis is established, or they have been on appropriate antimicrobial treatment for 5 or more days.
 - If pertussis is suspected: TEST AND TREAT the patient and family contacts immediately. Do not wait for lab results. The Patient is to be out of school or work for 5 days of treatment before returning. Notify the local health department immediately.
 - Symptomatic children who are contacts to diagnosed cases are to be out of school until they have been on at least 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Asymptomatic children who are contacts may remain in school while on antibiotic treatment.