



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Grant County

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TO: Grant County Media

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Health Officer urges increased vigilance in treatment and vaccination for Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

GRANT COUNTY, WA – A fifth laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis was reported to Grant County Health District on Friday, September 17th, 2010. This brings Grant County to six (5 confirmed and one epidemiologically linked) cases of pertussis since August 23, 2010. Approximately 20 suspect specimens are being tested and still pending.

Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, is urging the healthcare community to increase their vigilance in treatment of those who've come in close contact with a person with pertussis and in some cases begin administering *Tdap* vaccine to people over the age of 65.

Prevention and control of pertussis hinges on close cooperation between public health and the healthcare community by:

1. *Dtap* immunization of infants and children;
2. *Tdap* booster immunizations for adolescents and adults;
3. Detection, temporary isolation, and treatment of cases; and
4. Aggressive preventative treatment with antibiotics for household and other close contacts.

Grant County Health District's pertussis web page for families and caregivers:

www.granthealth.org/pertussis.html

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