



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 09/01/2010	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
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Third Grant County Infant with Pertussis

MOSES LAKE, WA— Public Health staff in Grant County are investigating a new confirmed case of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) in a Grant County infant. This is the third case in nine days. Of the two other confirmed cases, one resulted in the death of an infant on August 24, the other case is recovering.

Health alerts have been issued to the Grant County medical, education and childcare communities by Alexander Brzezny, Grant County Health Officer. These alerts recommend steps to minimize the risk of spreading Pertussis in these environments. The alerts can be found at www.granthealth.org.

“With a third confirmed case, Grant County is at risk of entering into a full Pertussis outbreak,” said Dr. Alexander Brzezny, Grant County Health Officer. “If anyone in your family spends time with infants or children, please make sure all adults are fully immunized against Pertussis. Nearly all infants with Pertussis get the infection from an infected adult.” Children receive their whooping cough immunizations during their first year of life and it takes numerous shots to get protected. Adults need one Tdap vaccine booster.

Grant County Health District is working closely with the health care providers and those exposed to the infected children.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 8,000 to 25,000 cases of Pertussis are reported each year. During the last decade, Pertussis has re-emerged as one of the most pressing public health issues due to increasing numbers of cases and lower vaccination rates. Recently, multiple outbreaks of Pertussis have been investigated in the United States, including the Northwest. From 2005-2009 Washington state had 2,636 cases. During this same time period Grant County had 17 cases. There have been 209 cases in Washington State in 2010 so far. In 2009 there were 220 during the same time period.

A typical case of Pertussis starts with a cough and runny nose for one-to-two weeks, followed by weeks to months of rapid coughing fits that sometimes ends with a whooping sound. Fever is rare. Unfortunately, young infants are less likely to have a notable cough – caregivers and health care

providers should consider the possibility of Pertussis in infants with coughs or colds, breath-holding spells or turning blue, to help in prompt diagnosis and treatment.

Grant County Health Officer reminds residents:

- Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease. Children should get five DTaP vaccinations between two months of age and when they start school.
- Because immunity from Pertussis vaccine or disease wears off, family members and caregivers of infants should make sure they are up to date with their Pertussis vaccinations.
- To protect their babies, women should get the Tdap booster before, during or immediately after pregnancy.
- All health care workers, school staff, and childcare providers should be fully immunized for Pertussis.
- The Tdap booster shot is available and recommended for people 11 and older.
- Tdap vaccine is required for 6th grade school entry.

More information about Pertussis can be found at:

CDC Pertussis Information- <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

CDC Pertussis Fact Sheet for Kids- <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/BAM-villain-for-kids-fs.html>

CDC Guidelines for the Control of Pertussis Outbreaks- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pertussis-guide/guide.htm>

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