



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

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Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Update

GRANT COUNTY, WA— Public health staff in Grant County have identified 138 people who came in close contact with the four confirmed Pertussis cases, (test results are still pending on the 5th possible case). The four cases are from various communities in Grant County and, to date, no confirmed links between the cases have been identified. Each close contact was interviewed to determine if they needed antibiotic treatment to prevent Pertussis infection.

Healthcare facilities and EMS agencies are being encouraged to vaccinate healthcare workers with a Tdap booster and follow strict infection control procedures.

Schools and childcare facilities are being asked to encourage students and staff to be up-to-date with their vaccinations. The Grant County Health District recommends unimmunized staff and unimmunized children with a cough be excluded from school/childcare and evaluated for Pertussis by a healthcare provider.

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 healthcare workers 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.

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