



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

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**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

**TO: Grant County Media, Healthcare  
Community and School Nurses**

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## **Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Outbreak Continues 28 cases in Grant County**

Grant County, WA – Grant County is continuing to see new cases of Whooping Cough (Pertussis) each month. Since the beginning of the outbreak in August 2010, Grant County Health District has investigated 28 cases. All of the Grant County reported cases are from Quincy, Ephrata and Moses Lake. Some cases have been linked together by household members or close contacts, but many case exposures remain unknown. At this time none of the cases are hospitalized.

Health District staff continues to communicate with the health care community regarding suspected cases and individuals tested for Pertussis. Since August, staff have spent over 920 hours investigating cases and working with the medical, school and childcare communities to prevent new cases.

**Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease.** It causes coughing that can make it hard to eat, drink, or breathe. Babies younger than 6 months who get Pertussis often must be hospitalized. Pertussis can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and even death.

### **What can you do?**

- Pertussis vaccine is included in DTaP for children and the new Tdap vaccine for adolescents and adults.
- Before age 7, children should get 5 doses of the DTaP vaccine.
- Up to 5 DTaP doses are required for Kindergarten entry and one Tdap booster is required for entry into 6th-9th grades.
- Tdap should be given as a single booster dose to 11-64 year old individuals. At this time in Grant County a Tdap booster is recommended for all people 11 yrs and older.
- Children ages 7-10 years who are not fully immunized against Pertussis (i.e. did not complete a series of pertussis-containing vaccine before their seventh birthday or vaccination status is unknown) should receive a one-time dose of Tdap. Adults age 65 and older who have not previously received a dose of Tdap should receive a one-time dose.
- Unfortunately adults lose their immunity to Pertussis over time, family members and caregivers of infants should be up-to-date with their Pertussis vaccinations.
- To protect their babies, women should get the Tdap booster before, during or immediately after pregnancy. Benefits and risks of getting a Tdap booster during pregnancy should be discussed with your health care provider first.
- All healthcare workers and child care providers should be fully immunized for Pertussis.
- Persons with an unexplained cough should avoid contact with infants and expectant mothers, including visiting or working in labor, delivery, and nursery areas of hospitals.

- Students and staff with an unexplained cough should be considered for exclusion from school and child care.
- If you live or have close contact with someone who has Pertussis, you should contact your health care provider to discuss treatment to prevent Pertussis.

The Health District would like to thank the healthcare community and school nurses for their outstanding cooperation during the outbreak.

For more information please visit [www.granthealth.org/pertussis.html](http://www.granthealth.org/pertussis.html).

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