



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1/3/2012 TO: Healthcare Community School Nurses	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Shawta Sackett RN, MPH Community Public Health Manager, Epidemiologist 509-766-7960 x 21 Lois Swenson, RN PHN Communicable Diseases Nurse 509-766-7960 x 13 24 hour phone: (509) 398-2083
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2010-2011 Pertussis Outbreak Downgraded: *Pertussis Now a High-Prevalence Disease in Grant County*

The Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has issued the following alert to the Grant County Healthcare Community: The Pertussis Outbreak of 2010-2011 has been downgraded; Pertussis remains a high prevalence disease in Grant County.

Situation Update

- Since October, the number of Pertussis cases reported to the Grant County Health District has been declining.
- A new baseline of approximately 28 cases annually gives Grant County a rate of about 32 cases per 100,000, making it a Pertussis high-prevalence county.
- Although the outbreak is considered over, Grant County has and will continue to see Pertussis cases or clusters at a greater numbers for months or possibly years.
- In order to control the spread of Pertussis, testing is still highly recommended when a patient presents with an unexplained cough of at least 14 days duration. **Culture is the most specific and sensitive for Pertussis in the first 2 weeks of illness.**
- The most important disease control strategy continues to be timely testing and treatment when indicated, and Pertussis vaccination program for all age groups at or above 2 months of age.
- The number of Pertussis cases in Washington State has increased by over 40% between 2010 and 2011. Two infants have died in 2011 (Yakima and Snohomish counties) due to Pertussis. However, Pertussis cases in the counties surrounding Grant continue to be low, at 2-5 cases per surrounding county.
- **Pertussis is one of the top communicable health threats to the Grant County residents**, with the others being influenza, pneumonia and sexually transmitted infections.
- The CDC recommends the use of PCR and culture if Pertussis is suspected, not PCR alone as an alternative to culture. The DOH PHL is following this recommendation for Pertussis testing. Nasopharyngeal wash instructions:
www.granthealth.org/content/PH/GCHDpertussis_specimen%20collection9-2010Final.pdf
- Continue to notify Grant County Health District of all suspected cases and individuals tested for Pertussis.

Vaccination Recommendations

- ACIP recommends Tdap for pregnant women >20 weeks gestation. MMRW 10/21/11: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6041a4.htm?s_cid=mm6041a4_w
- Administer one dose of Tdap to children 7-18 years old who are un- and under-vaccinated against Pertussis (preferentially as the initial dose of their catch up series) or for whom vaccine is indicated (11-12 year of age, etc.).
- Infants are at higher risk for death and complications from Pertussis. Vaccinating parents, grandparents, caregivers and siblings of infants <12 months is critical to the reduction and prevention of Pertussis and its complications (including death) in the community.

Infection Control

- Isolation (i.e., droplet precautions in healthcare facilities and restriction to home in the community) should continue until test results are known and/or completion of antimicrobial therapy.
- Continue to utilize the Pertussis Family Checklist. www.granthealth.org/content/PH/pertussisfamilychecklist.pdf
- Continue to utilize the Pertussis Provider Checklist when presented with a suspected Pertussis case. www.granthealth.org/content/PH/PertussisProviderChecklist1110.pdf

Consultation

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Visit the Grant County Health District web site

- Pertussis information for families and caregivers: www.granthealth.org/pertussis.html
- Healthcare provider alerts, advisories and guidelines. www.granthealth.org/HealthcarePro.html
- Current and past GCHD press releases: www.granthealth.org

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