



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

Ephrata Office County Courthouse
PO Box 37, Ephrata, WA 98823
509-754-6060

Moses Lake Office
1038 West Ivy Suite 1, Moses Lake, WA 98837
509-766-7960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 08/12/2011

TO: School nurses, child care facilities and
DEL child care licensors

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 x13

24 hour phone: (509) 398-2083

Grant County Pertussis Outbreak Continues New Cases Reported

The Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has issued the following alert to the Grant County schools and child care providers. **The Pertussis outbreak continues with several recent cases reported to the Grant County Health District (GCHD).** The latest cases are in young children.

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 some of the exposures remain unknown. Many of the reported cases and sick persons have been vaccinated for Pertussis.

All precautions and recommendations issued by the Grant County Health District (GCHD) are still in effect. The minimum precautions and recommendations are:

- Children and school/childcare staff should be up to date on Pertussis immunizations.
- Unimmunized children and staff with a cough and runny nose should be considered for exclusion from school and child care, and should be evaluated for Pertussis as appropriate.
 - Distribute the following Pertussis Family Checklist to all parents/caregivers or staff:
www.granthealth.org/content/PH/pertussisfamilychecklist.pdf
- Contact the GCHD when a case is reported to your school or child care as well as complete the following Pertussis reporting form and fax to the GCHD at 509-764-2813.
 - Reporting form: www.granthealth.org/content/PH/pertussisschoolreportingform90310.pdf
- Placement of posters at all door entries and utilization of a face mask by any individual entering with a cough or have had an exposure to Pertussis.
 - Sample signage: www.granthealth.org/content/PH/donotenter_petussis_general.pdf

Due to the outbreak conditions, additional precautions and recommendations include:

- School and child care staff exercise increased surveillance for Pertussis symptoms in their facilities. Pertussis symptoms: www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/signs-symptoms.html
- All children and staff with a cough and runny nose should be evaluated for symptoms and onset. Any person who may have been exposed to Pertussis and is showing symptoms should not attend school or child care until they see their doctor or are treated. If a cough lasts 7 or more days, exclude until approved for return by a medical care provider.
- All staff should get a **Tdap** vaccination if they have not had one yet, including those 65 and older (however vaccination does not guarantee immunity). No minimum interval since last Td needs to be followed.

- Children 7-18 years old who are un- and under-vaccinated against Pertussis (preferentially as the initial dose of their catch up series) should receive a **Tdap** vaccination.
- Encourage all staff and volunteers who have or anticipate close contact with an infant less than 12 months of age receive a single dose of **Tdap**. Vaccination of adults 65 and older is still not routinely recommended, but is permissible in certain other situations, like outbreaks.
- Staff, adolescents, and adults who have not received a dose of **Tdap** and for whom vaccination history is unknown should receive a dose of **Tdap** as soon as feasible (no minimum interval since last Td needs to be followed).
- **Tdap** is now recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in pregnant women after 20 weeks gestation when indicated. Please see the following link for more information: www.medpagetoday.com/MeetingCoverage/ACIP/27245.

Consultation

Contact Lois Swenson, Communicable Disease Nurse.
509-766-7960 ext. 13 or lswenson@granthealth.org

Visit the Grant County Health District web site for

- School Nurse Checklist: www.granthealth.org/content/PH/schoolnursechecklist%2012-2-10.pdf
- 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

###