



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03/13/2009

TO: Emergency Rooms in Grant County  
Walk-in, Urgent Care Clinics in Grant County  
Healthcare Providers in Grant County  
Healthcare Emergencies Alliance

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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### UPDATES – PERTUSSIS, INFLUENZA

#### Pertussis

A pertussis outbreak associated with the 2009 WIAA Wrestling State Championships held in the Tacoma Dome on February 20 & 21, 2009 has been identified. **Currently there are no confirmed cases in Grant County.** If confirmed cases in Grant County are identified, the Grant County Health District will directly contact persons who may have been exposed, and will inform health care providers, as appropriate. Here is the most current information:

- Kittitas County has 24 confirmed pertussis cases, 21 of these are Kittitas High School students and staff. Kittitas High School activities have been postponed until April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- One wrestling team from a Grant County school has been identified to have had direct contact with infected wrestlers at the Tacoma Dome.
- Cases have been confirmed in 4 athletes from Snohomish County and 1 athlete from Pierce County, suggesting the possibility of more widespread transmission at the event.
- To date 6 Grant County residents have received prophylactic treatment for exposures

**Please assess your patients' immunization records and encourage them to receive their Tdap booster. A minimum 2 year interval is suggested but not required. See recommendations:**

**Adolescents:** [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5503a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5503a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5503a1.htm?s_cid=rr5503a1_e)

**Adults:** <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5517a1.htm>

**Pregnancy:** [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5704a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5704a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5704a1.htm?s_cid=rr5704a1_e)

**Healthcare workers should be vaccinated with Tdap:** <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2017.pdf>

#### Influenza

**Grant County** Health District influenza reporting data shows that influenza activity has risen and continues to be high, consistent with state-wide reporting:

- 204 positive laboratory reports received, 28 within the past week;
- Influenza A positive – 79%; Influenza B positive – 25% (4 reports dual A./B infection);
- 191 of the 204 cases (94%) **did not** receive a flu vaccine this year;
- 12 positive reports (Influenza A =6, Influenza B = 6) related to vaccinated individuals: 6 of these were children under 7 years of age, with influenza B being predominant.

**Washington State** reports indicate rising influenza activity with predominance of both Influenza A and B; Pneumonia and influenza death percentages were higher than the national epidemic threshold in late February. No pediatric deaths have been reported. **CDC** reports that in late February, nationally pneumonia and influenza deaths were below average. Five influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.

**More detailed information on influenza activity visit:**

Washington State Department of Health: [www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Epidemiology/CD/fluupdate.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Epidemiology/CD/fluupdate.htm)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

**Please assure that your facility offers and promotes the wearing of face masks for individuals who may be infected with pertussis or influenza, or are coughing for any other reason.**