

DPHHS HAN

Information Service

Cover Sheet

DATE: May 15, 2013

SUBJECT: CORRECTED: DPHHS Reports High Number of Pertussis Cases in Montana and Sends Out a Press Release

For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

**DPHHS CDCP
Immunization Section
1-406-444-5580**

INSTRUCTIONS:

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1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov**

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

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Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please call DPHHS to update contact information at 444-0919

DPHHS policy is to forward all HAN messages from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Information Sheet

Date: May 15, 2013

Subject: Pertussis Continues Across Montana: Vaccination Recommendations and Resources

Information:

Pertussis cases continue to be diagnosed across Montana with increased activity occurring in several regions. Year to date 262 cases have been reported to DPHHS with school-aged children making up 72% of these cases. A review of cases from Montana's 2012 pertussis outbreak determined that many of these cases were not up to date on their pertussis vaccinations. In addition, only 19% of 11-12 year olds eligible by age received a dose of Tdap prior to diagnosis.

The most effective way to prevent pertussis is through vaccination, with DTaP for infants and children and with Tdap for preteens, teens and adults. Vaccinated children and adults can become infected with and transmit pertussis; however, disease is less likely to be severe.

- DTaP:
 - Administer a 5-dose series at ages 2, 4, 6, 15-18 months and 4-6 years. Consult the Catch-up schedule if needed. (See 2013 Immunization Schedules)

- Tdap:
 - Administer 1 dose to all adolescents aged 11-12 years
 - Adults 65 years and older may receive Tdap
 - Tdap vaccine can be administered regardless of the interval since the most recent tetanus or diphtheria containing vaccine was received
 - Vaccination of preteens, teens and adults – including pregnant women – with Tdap is especially important for families with new infants
 - Administer **one dose of Tdap vaccine to pregnant women during each pregnancy** (preferred during 27-36 weeks gestation), regardless of number of years since prior Td or Tdap vaccination
 - Wound management- If a tetanus booster is indicated, Tdap is preferred over Td in adults aged ≥ 19 years who have not previously received Tdap

Recommendations:

Local health jurisdictions

DPHHS encourages local health jurisdictions to continue monitoring your community for coughing illness in daycares, schools, etc.

Daycare settings: Confirm that all children are up-to-date with their vaccinations as age appropriate

Schools: Consider vaccinating with Tdap before entry into 7th grade if the child is 11 years of age

Health care providers

Patients: Please review the vaccination status of your patients at each visit and bring them up-to-date with pertussis containing vaccine

Healthcare workers/office staff: All healthcare personnel who have not or are unsure if they have previously received a dose of Tdap should receive a one-time dose of Tdap as soon as feasible, without regard to the interval since the previous dose of Td. Tdap vaccination can protect health care personnel against pertussis and help reduce transmission to others.

For questions regarding [pertussis vaccines](#), [symptoms](#), [testing](#), and [treatment](#) please contact your local health department.

Resources:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/> The DPHHS website includes general pertussis information and the following:

Pertussis: Summary of Vaccine Recommendations

Tdap for Pregnant Women

2013 Immunization Schedules

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Pertussis
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/default.htm>

NEWS

*“Improving and Protecting the
Health, Well-Being and Self-
Reliance of All Montanans.”*



Department of Public Health and Human Services

www.dphhs.mt.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2013

Contact: Jon Ebelt, Public Information Officer, DPHHS, (406) 444-0936
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DPHHS reports high number of pertussis cases in Montana *Most cases in school-aged children*

According to state public health officials, an unusually high number of pertussis cases continue to be reported in Montana. More than 265 cases have been reported this year and the vast majority of cases have been in school-aged children.

Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) officials have determined that many of these cases were not up to date on their pertussis vaccinations. In addition, only 19 percent of students aged 11-12 years had received the recommended pertussis booster, known as Tdap, prior to becoming ill.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection and initially can resemble an ordinary cold. A person can spread the disease while he or she has cold-like symptoms and for at least 2 weeks after coughing starts.

Infants are at greatest risk for complications related to pertussis. More than half of infants younger than 1 year of age who get pertussis are hospitalized and 1 out of 5 will get pneumonia. Infants (6 months of age and younger) are the children most likely to die from this disease. Because pertussis is so harmful in babies, everyone around them needs to be vaccinated to create a circle of protection.

“The best way to prevent pertussis is through vaccination,” DPHHS Director Richard Opper said.

The childhood vaccine is called DTaP and requires a series of 5 doses for the best protection. The pertussis booster vaccine for adolescents and adults is called Tdap and is currently recommended for adolescents at age 11-12 years, and for all other adults who have not previously been vaccinated with Tdap. Both vaccines protect against pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria.

In addition, all pregnant women should talk to their health care provider about new recommendations to receive Tdap vaccine during their pregnancy. “Vaccine given to women during the third trimester of pregnancy will provide protection to a newborn as well as to the mother,” said Susan Reeser, RN, of the DPHHS Immunization Program.

The adolescent booster dose of Tdap is commonly given as a school requirement prior to entry into 7th grade. During this outbreak, public health officials are urging parents to consider getting their child vaccinated as soon as they are eligible for the vaccine at age 11 years to help stop the spread of this disease.

“Talk to your healthcare provider or local health department about getting vaccinated against pertussis or to confirm that you and your family are up-to date with the current recommendations,” Reeser said.

More information on pertussis is available at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/>