



PERTUSSIS OUTBREAKS IN FIVE WEST VIRGINIA COUNTIES

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities
FROM: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health
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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

In 2015 to date, 5 outbreaks of pertussis have been confirmed in West Virginia (compared to 1 in 2014 and none in 2013); a total of 52 cases have been reported this year. Healthcare providers are recommended to take the following actions:

- Make sure patients of all ages and healthcare workers are up to date on pertussis-containing vaccines (see immunization schedules at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>). Vaccination strategies to prevent pertussis in infants are found in the MMWR Oct 21, 2011/60(41);1424-1426 or http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6041a4.htm?s_cid=mm6041a4_e%0D%0A
- Consider the diagnosis of pertussis in patients and their close contacts who display the following symptoms: paroxysmal cough, inspiratory whoop, post-tussive vomiting.
- Test **symptomatic** patients for pertussis using PCR and culture. Testing for both are available through the WV Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) by coordinating directly with your local health department.
- To maximize true-positive results: 1) Do not test asymptomatic persons. 2) Specimens should only be collected in solid media using gloves and droplet precautions (surgical mask). 3) Testing should not occur in the same room where vaccination occurs; DNA from vaccine can contaminate clinic surfaces. 4) After specimen collection, remove gloves, wash hands; after the patient leaves, clean and disinfect clinic surfaces to eliminate environmental contamination.
- Follow recommended WV Bureau for Public Health testing, treatment and control guidelines found at: http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/IBD_VPD/VPD/Pages/Pertussis.aspx. More information can be found on the pertussis Provider Information Sheet at http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/IBD_VPD/VPD/Documents/Pertussis_Physician_FAQ.pdf
- Report all cases of pertussis to your local health department.

For more information, contact your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, ext. 1 or (304)-558-5358, ext. 1.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

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Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

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