



PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH) INCREASE IN WEST VIRGINIA

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers

FROM: Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH, State Health Officer
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

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

As of November 22, 2010, 107 cases of pertussis have been reported to WV Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH) compared to 40 cases in 2009. Fayette, Kanawha, Marion, Mercer, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Randolph and Wood counties have reported 5 or more cases of pertussis to WVBPH.

Healthcare providers should maintain a high index of suspicion and take the following actions:

- Make sure patients of all ages are up to date on pertussis-containing vaccines (see immunization schedules at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm>).
- Consider the diagnosis of pertussis in their patients and close contacts. The diagnosis of pertussis is often delayed or missed. In the youngest infants, atypical presentation is common – the cough may be minimal or absent and the primary symptom can be apnea.
- Test for pertussis in symptomatic patients, by using PCR and culture. Both are available free of charge through the WV Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) at 304-558-3530.
- Follow appropriate WVBPH testing, treatment and control guidelines. These are found at: http://www.wvdep.org/Portals/31/PDFs/IDEP/Pertussis/Pertussis_Physician_FAQ_June_2010.pdf [Or go to www.wvdep.org, follow “A-Z Index of Infectious Diseases” to Pertussis; under “General Information” click on “Provider Information”.]

Local public health professionals should try to raise awareness among the community about pertussis vaccines, working with local immunization coalitions and other partners to maximize outreach. *Please contact WV Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-423-1271 (in WV) or 304-558-5358 for questions.*

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 to the targeted audiences noted.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

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

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.