



HEALTH ADVISORY #59

PERTUSSIS OUTBREAKS IN BERKELEY, HANCOCK, and MORGAN COUNTIES

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities
FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health
DATE: 1/18/2012

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

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

The local health departments in Berkeley, Hancock and Morgan counties and the WV Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology are currently investigating 3 outbreaks of pertussis. To date, there are a total of 38 confirmed and probable cases, with more under investigation. Healthcare providers should 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>). Strategies to prevent pertussis in infants is found at 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, and post-tussive vomiting.
- 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). If you would like to receive a specimen collection kit or submit a specimen for testing, please coordinate these efforts with your local health department.
- 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 about pertussis can be found on the attached Provider Information Sheet.
- Report all cases of pertussis to your local health department.

Please feel free to contact the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-423-1271 in WV or 304-558-5358 should you have any 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 as appropriate to the target audience.

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.