

Columbus Public Health

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Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Board of Health have seen an increase in the number of pertussis cases this year, including the recent outbreak in a local school.

While pertussis most often occurs in infants and children under five years of age, the number of cases in adolescents and adults is increasing. This increase may be related to lack of testing and treatment in the older populations or the waning of vaccine immunity as we age.

Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Board of Health is recommending:

1. Testing of all symptomatic patients with a known epi-link to a confirmed case of pertussis. (For any questions or needed testing supplies contact Nationwide Children's Hospital Outpatient Lab at 614-722-5477.)
2. Administering antibiotics (usually Z-pak) to confirmed cases and identified contacts of a confirmed pertussis case.
3. Reminding any confirmed case of pertussis about the need for exclusion from work, school , public outings, etc for a period of 5 (five) days, starting from the first dose of antibiotic taken.
4. Recommending the adult or adolescent pertussis vaccine (Boostrix, Adacel) for adolescents and adults when appropriate.

Vaccine

- o Adacel is licensed for ages 11-64 years.
- o The CDC recommends Tdap vaccine for any adult who is a parent or child care provider.
- o Consider Adacel in place of TD vaccine. (Should allow minimum of 2 years between TD and Adacel)

Pertussis testing

- o Ideally, collect two posterior nasopharyngeal swab specimens (one from each nares)
- o Check pertussis PCR collection kit to ensure the tube with transport medium has not expired.
- o Specimens collected may be transported at room temperature for same-day delivery. If overnight delivery is required, specimens should be refrigerated and sent on ice or cold pack

Responsibilities of Public Health

1. Confirm diagnoses.
2. Call patient/parent and educate about disease. Ensure patient has appropriate medication.
3. Identify contacts and educate about disease. Ensure that contacts receive medication. (In some cases, Public Health will provide medication and/or antibiotics).
4. Monitor incidence for clusters and outbreaks.

DISEASE INCIDENCE

Cases reported in Columbus and Franklin County October 2007

Pertussis: 46

Mumps: 0

Salmonella: 15

Hepatitis A: 2

Rubella: 0

Shigella: 1

Aseptic meningitis: 12

Brought to you by the Communicable Disease Reporting System (CDRS)

Report Disease with Ease – 24 hours a day 719-8888 (phone) 719-8890 (fax) cdrs@franklincountyohio.gov (email)

Website: <http://www.cdrsinfo.com>

Provided to you through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health