

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY*

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Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive



Henry M. Kurban, MD, MBA, MPH, FACPM
Commissioner

PERTUSSIS OUTBREAK AMONG ADOLESCENTS

Friday, February 19, 2016 2 pm

Dutchess County is experiencing an outbreak of Pertussis, particularly among adolescents. More than 20 confirmed cases have been reported since January 1, 2016. Healthcare Providers are advised to:

- If pertussis is suspected or known exposure, clinicians should collect a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. Provide **prompt** antibiotic treatment **after** collecting specimens and provide post-exposure prophylaxis to household contacts.
- Observe Droplet Precautions (i.e., wear a mask) and hand hygiene when examining and caring for patients with respiratory infection symptoms.
- Report **confirmed** and **suspect** cases promptly to the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health at (845) 486-3402.

In addition, the Department recommends providers ensure all patients are up to date with pertussis vaccination. Recall any patients who are not up to date with DTaP and Tdap vaccines.

Pregnant women should be vaccinated with Tdap during **every pregnancy**, preferably between 27-36 weeks gestation, and infants start the vaccine series at 2 months, with subsequent doses should be given at 4, 6, 15-18 months, and at 4-6 years of age. Young infants are at greatest risk of severe pertussis infection and its complications.

For more information on diagnosis and treatment, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/diagnostic-testing/diagnosis-pcr-bestpractices.html>.

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/docs/guidance_pertussis_control.pdf

http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/docs/when_cough_is_pertussis.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/infographics/protect-babies-from-whooping-cough.html>

***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.

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health

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