

June 6, 2016

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Hospitals - Emergency Rooms / Infection Control / Occupational Health, Walk-In Clinics

## **RE: PERTUSSIS ACTIVITY IN ONTARIO**

The Health Unit has been notified of two recent, unrelated pertussis outbreaks in the Blind River area north of Sudbury and Bancroft, Ontario.

Pertussis should be considered in individuals presenting with symptoms compatible with pertussis including:

- Paroxysmal cough of any duration **OR**
- Cough ending in vomiting, or associated with apnea **OR**
- Cough with inspiratory “whoop” **OR**
- Any cough illness lasting two weeks or more

If clients present to your office with symptoms of pertussis, please test them following the diagnostic test recommendations from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (link below). Locally, pertussis kits can be ordered from the Ontario Public Health Laboratory in Peterborough by calling 705-743-6811.

The attached fact sheet may assist you in providing information to parents. It can also be found electronically on the Health Units website.

*Pertussis (Whooping Cough) – Fact Sheet*

[http://www.hkpr.on.ca/Portals/0/PDF%20Files%20-%20CDC/FACT\\_pertussis\\_Dec2014.pdf](http://www.hkpr.on.ca/Portals/0/PDF%20Files%20-%20CDC/FACT_pertussis_Dec2014.pdf)

*Diagnostic Test Recommendations for Pertussis*

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/disease/pertussis.html>

Please continue to immunize as recommended in the “Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario – October 2015”. The schedule includes recommendations for age appropriate pertussis-containing vaccines that are publicly funded in Ontario. Please note that a single lifetime dose of Tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) is publicly funded for adults 19-64 years of age who did not receive the Tdap vaccine in adolescence.

**Please notify the Health Unit of all individuals who are being tested for pertussis and continue to report suspect and confirmed cases.**

If you have any questions about this notice or the attachments, please contact the Health Unit and ask to speak with a nurse in the Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology & Evaluation Department.

Haliburton  
705-457-1391

Lindsay  
705-324-3569

Port Hope  
905-885-9100

After Hours  
1-888-255-7839

