



WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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PERTUSSIS and WEST NILE FEVER UPDATE

To: Walla Walla County Healthcare Providers

From: Harvey R. Crowder, DVM, MS, DACVPM
Director, Community Health

Date: July 16, 2014

Subject: Pertussis Alert

We have our first report of Pertussis in the Walla Walla Valley. I ask you to consider Pertussis in your differential diagnosis if you have a patient with:

- A cough with:
 - Paroxysms of coughing, or
 - Inspiratory "whoop," or
 - Posttussive vomiting
 - Without other apparent cause

If you suspect Pertussis we ask you request a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and / or a nasopharyngeal culture.

Cases should be treated with azithromycin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole. Suspect cases should be removed from the presence of young children and infants, especially those that are not or under immunized until five (5) days of antibiotics have been received.

Household contacts should be provided prophylaxis with azithromycin, erythromycin, clarithromycin, or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole. Please be cognizant on the use recommendations for azithromycin.

Children under seven (7) years of age who have not been vaccinated within three (3) years or received four (4) doses of DTaP should be given a dose as soon as possible. Children and young adults between 11 and 18 years of age should receive a Tdap booster and adults 19 through 64 years of age should also receive a Tdap booster if they have not already been immunized. The Health Department has free Tdap vaccine available for adults who are un- or under-insured.

Please immediately report any suspect cases of Pertussis to us in the Health Department by calling 509.524.2650.

If you have any questions please call me at 524-2655 (office), 240-2697 (cell), 529-0899 (home) or e-mail me at hcrowder@co.walla-walla.wa.us.

Further information can be found on the Washington Department of Health web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/348-254-PertussisUpdate.pdf>

or the CDC web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/pert.pdf>

This is the time of year when we would expect to begin seeing West Nile Virus Disease. Please include West Nile in your differential if you see individuals presenting with fever, headache, myalgia, and rash. More information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/healthCareProviders/>