

Health Alert Network

Missoula City-County Health Department

Date: September 9, 2019



Please forward to all healthcare providers.

Pertussis ADVISORY: Clarification regarding recommendations for prophylactic treatment of contacts

Background: The pertussis outbreak in Western Montana continues with Missoula County experiencing 169 confirmed cases since April 17. Please be aware that this is an ongoing community-wide outbreak. The ages of confirmed cases range from infant through adulthood with the majority of cases having received pertussis vaccination. Several of the confirmed cases were never identified as a contact to a positive case and their exposure is unknown.

The health department requests that health care providers please:

Suspect: Evaluate for pertussis symptoms regardless of immunization status and perform PCR testing for *Bordetella pertussis* in patients presenting with symptoms.

Treat: Treat confirmed and suspect cases with the appropriate antibiotics and instruct the patient to self-isolate (exclude) until completion of 5 days of antibiotics. MCCHD is not recommending prophylactic treatment except in the following circumstances:

- Please treat all household members with prophylactic antibiotics per CDC guidelines
- Please consider treatment of identified close contacts in the following risk categories:
 - Pregnant
 - Infant under 12 months old
 - Immune compromised individuals
 - Persons with moderate to severe medically treated respiratory disease

Vaccinate: Offer vaccination to children and adults who have not received their full series or the Tdap booster. CDC recommends a Tdap booster for pregnant women with each pregnancy.

Report: Quickly report **suspect** and **confirmed** cases of pertussis to MCCHD.

For questions or more information, please contact the Missoula City-County Health Department Infectious Disease Office at **258-3896** or the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section of DPHHS at 444-0273.

- 1. Contact Missoula City-County Health Department Infectious Disease Nurse at 406-258-3896 Monday-Friday 9 am to 5 pm**
- 2. For immediate after hours assistance, call 911 and ask them to page the "Health Department Infectious Disease On-Call Pager"**