



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Division
(510) 981-5300

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Health Advisory

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Increase in Pertussis cases

Please distribute to all providers in your practice

Current Situation

A recent increase in cases of pertussis has been reported in Berkeley. Surrounding counties have reported an increase as well.

Please note pertussis is being seen in both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals with varying clinical presentations.

The most severe cases of pertussis occur in infants less than 6 months of age.

The most important strategy to prevent this is Tdap vaccination of the mother during **each** pregnancy. All caregivers and people around infants are strongly recommended to be up-to-date with their pertussis vaccine.

Recommendations:

- Pregnant women should receive a dose of Tdap during **each** pregnancy, any trimester, but preferably between 27 and 36 weeks gestation **irrespective of the patient's prior history of receiving Tdap**.
- Report all suspect and laboratory-confirmed pertussis cases to Berkeley public health at (510) 981-5300.
- Submit specimens for laboratory confirmation. Preferred methods of testing are culture and PCR (polymerase chain reaction) by NP swab. Serologic assays are not recommended.
- Begin chemoprophylaxis of patients and household contacts regardless of age or vaccination status. Confirmed cases should self isolate until antibiotic treatment is completed.
- Implement standard and droplet precautions for individuals with clinical presentation of pertussis.
- Review immunization records and stress the importance of up-to-date vaccination.

Sources for Information

- Center for Disease Control (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/>
- City of Berkeley Public Health Division: <http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/publichealth/>
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH): <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx>

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