



Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Board of Health



July 13, 2010

Dear Provider:

Columbus Public Health (CPH) and Franklin County Board of Health (FCBH) are responding to a significant increase in cases of pertussis. As of July 12, 2010 pertussis incidence in Columbus, Franklin County and Ohio is:

	2010 Incidence YTD	2010 Case Rate per 100,000 population
Columbus & Franklin County	135	11.7
Ohio	614	5.3

** Compared to same time period in 2009, there were 6.6 cases per 100K in Columbus & Franklin County and 5.3 per 100K in Ohio*

A significant increase in pertussis cases has also been observed nationally. Of note, California recently reported an epidemic of pertussis cases for 2010 with rates as high as 76.9 cases per 100,000 population in one county and 5 deaths in infants aged <2 months.

Healthcare providers are encouraged to increase their suspicion for pertussis among patients of all ages, especially infants within the first year of life, as well as parents, care givers and siblings of infants. Classically, pertussis presents as a cough illness lasting at least 14 days, associated with paroxysms of coughing, and/or inspiratory whoop, and/or post-tussive emesis.

Public Health is asking for assistance from all healthcare providers to assist us with controlling pertussis cases in our community. You can help by following the Four Ts:

- Think Pertussis: consider the diagnosis in your patients
- Test for Pertussis: delays in recognition may contribute to adverse outcomes
- Treat Pertussis: treat suspected and confirmed cases promptly with azithromycin
- Reduce Transmission: use every patient encounter to vaccinate against pertussis with Tdap or DTaP and report cases promptly

If you have questions, please contact a Communicable Disease Nurse at 614 645-1474 Option 2 or 614 462-3160. Information about pertussis is available on the web at: www.cdrsinfo.com.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to keep the public safe and healthy.

Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH
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