



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Advisory

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this alert may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health
Cowlitz County Health Department
Skamania County Health Department
Wahkiakum County Department of Health and Human Services
(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ADVISORY

May 15, 2012

Note: As of May 15, there have been 112 pertussis cases in Clark County, compared to just 19 cases this time last year. These numbers will be updated each Tuesday and posted at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/advisories.html>. Cowlitz County has seen 49 cases this year, compared with just 1 case this time last year. These numbers are updated monthly and posted at http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health/assessment/CD_monthly_stats%202012.pdf. For the number of pertussis cases in other Washington counties, see www.doh.wa.gov, click on "Current Situation in Washington."

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer

RE: People with pertussis are infectious until they have completed 5 days of antibiotics

We wish to remind providers that people with pertussis are contagious until they have completed 5 days of antibiotic treatment. Recently, we heard from area schools that some students with pertussis have been returning to school as soon as 24 to 48 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment. Anyone being treated for pertussis should remain at home until 5 days after starting treatment.

Pertussis is highly contagious. Persons with pertussis are most infectious during the catarrhal period and the first 2 weeks after cough onset. Communicability then decreases but may continue for 3 or more weeks after the paroxysmal cough onset. Therefore, cases are contagious from catarrhal symptom onset (or 2 weeks prior to paroxysmal cough onset if catarrhal onset date is not known) to 21 or more days after the start of the paroxysmal cough **or until completion of 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy**. Some individuals, especially infants, if untreated, may remain culture-positive for several weeks; there is no chronic carrier state.

See the attached table for information on treating and preventing pertussis.

If you have any questions, please visit <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Topics/pertussis2012/hcproviders.htm> or contact your local public health department:

- Clark County Public Health: (360) 397-8182
- Cowlitz County Health and Human Services: (360) 414-5599
- Skamania County Community Health: (509) 427-3850
- Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services (360) 795-6207

Thank you for your partnership.

Treatment and Prophylaxis Regimens for Pertussis*

Age group	Azithromycin	Erythromycin	Clarithromycin	TMP-SMZ
Infants aged <1 month	Recommended agent. 10 mg/kg per day orally in one dose (max 500 mg/d) for 5 days. <i>Only limited safety data available.</i>	Not preferred. Erythromycin is associated with infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis. Use if azithromycin is unavailable: 40--50 mg/kg per day (maximum: 2 g per day) in 4 divided doses for 14 days	Not recommended, safety data unavailable	Contraindicated for infants <2 months due to risk for kernicterus
Infants 1-5 months	10 mg/kg per day orally in one dose (max 500 mg/d) for 5 days.	40--50 mg/kg per day (maximum: 2 g per day) in 4 divided doses for 14 days	15 mg/kg per day (maximum: 1 g per day) in 2 divided doses each day for 7 days	Contraindicated for infants <2 months. For infants aged ≥2 months, TMP 8 mg/kg per day, SMP 40mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days
Infants aged 6 months of age and older children	10 mg/kg (maximum: 500 mg) on day 1, followed by 5 mg/kg per day (maximum: 250 mg) on days 2--5	40--50 mg/kg per day (maximum: 2 g per day) in 4 divided doses for 14 days	15 mg/kg per day (maximum: 1 g per day) in 2 divided doses each day for 7 days	TMP 8 mg/kg per day, SMP 40mg/kg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days (maximum adult dose)
Adults	500 mg in a single dose on day 1 then 250 mg per day on days 2-5.	2 g per day in 4 divided doses for 14 days.	1 g per day in 2 divided doses for 7 days. Pregnancy category C.	TMP 320 mg per day, SMZ 1,600 mg per day in 2 divided doses for 14 days. Pregnancy category C.

*Recommended Antimicrobial Agents for the Treatment and Postexposure Prophylaxis of Pertussis 2005, CDC Guidelines: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5414a1.htm>