



Marion County
OREGON
Health & Human Services

To:
Fax number:

From: Marion County Health & Human Services
Fax number: (503) 566-2920

Date: 5/30/2024

Regarding: Provider Alert - **Pertussis Rising in Oregon**

Phone number for follow-up: (503) 588-5621

ALERT

**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO
CLINIC PROVIDERS**

Dear Healthcare Partners,

In 2024 as of May 29th, 178 cases of pertussis have been reported to the Oregon Health Authority, compared to 20 cases at this time in 2023. School-aged children and adolescents account for 91 (52%) of these cases. **Among them, only 51 (55%) are up to date with recommended pertussis vaccinations.**

Infants have the highest risk of pertussis-related complications and death as well as the highest reported incidence rate. During 2003–2023, infants accounted for 12% of cases and 76% of pertussis hospitalizations. Oregon pertussis deaths have been limited to infants; five have occurred since 2003. Tdap is highly effective at preventing pertussis hospitalization in infants when pregnant women choose to be vaccinated during their 27–36th week of pregnancy. Among 16 infant cases reported in Oregon to date in 2024, only one mother had a documented dose of Tdap during the pregnancy.

Key Recommendations to protect young infants:

- **Tdap vaccination at 27–36 weeks of pregnancy for every pregnancy, regardless of immune status.** Vaccination is safe during pregnancy and stimulates the development of maternal anti-pertussis antibodies that pass through the placenta and protect young infants who are too young to receive the vaccine.
- **Prophylaxis.** When an infant or pregnant woman is in the household of someone with pertussis, all household members should receive a course of antibiotics effective against *Bordetella pertussis*—typically, a 5-day course of azithromycin.

Other Recommendations:

- **Testing.** Consider pertussis and test when appropriate. Diagnostics for pertussis are limited to culture and polymerase chain reaction. PCR can provide timely results with improved sensitivity over culture. Read more about clinical features [here](#).
- **Routine vaccination** against pertussis is recommended for infants, children, adolescents, and adults, who will have contact with the infant during every pregnancy. All children should be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis at 2, 4, 6 and 15–18 months, and again at 4 years to kindergarten age. All people ages 10 and older should receive a single dose of Tdap and a booster every 10 years.

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Pertussis website](#).

Oregon Health Authority [Pertussis/Whooping Cough website](#).

Marion County Communicable Diseases Reporting Number: (503) 588-5621

Attachment C

Health Alerts Worksheet

Subject Pertussis

Date 5/30/24

- Group 001 ICP**
- Group 002 Hospitals**
- Group 003 Family Practice**
- Group 004 Internal Medicine
- Group 005 CD Counties/DHS
- Group 006 Pharmacies
- Group 007 Nursing Homes ALF RCF
- Group 008 Dermatology
- Group 009 School Nurse
- Group 010 School Administrator
- Group 011 Private School
- Group 012 Ambulance
- Group 013 Labs
- Group 014 Bio Emergency Contacts
- Group 015 OBGYN**
- Group 016 Pediatrics**
- Group 017 Correction Facilities
- Group 018 Medical Associations
- Group 019 Blood Collection Centers
- Group 020 Police
- Group 021 Transportation
- Group 022 Utility Workers |
- Group 023 Telecommunications IT
- Group 024 Funeral Directors Embalmers
- Group 025 Alternative Dispensing Site Groups
- Group 026 Board of Commissioners City Mayors City Managers
- Group 027 EMS
- Group 028 Emergency Management
- Group 029 Food (Transportation)
- Group 030 Fuel (Transportation)
- Group 031 Daycares
- Group 032 Veterinarians
- Group 033 Specialists
- Group 034 Willamette Health Partners
- Group 066 Administration/Polk County