
*"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues,
developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."*

Public Health Update for Health District Four (Ada, Boise, Elmore and Valley Counties)

Update on Pertussis in Ada and Elmore Counties

February 5, 2009

Circulate to All Medical Providers & Clinical Staff

Six cases of pertussis have been identified among Eagle High School students, bringing the total number of recently reported cases in Ada County to seven. The onsets of symptoms of those cases range from Thanksgiving to mid-January.

Elmore County now has 11 reported pertussis cases. The majority of those cases are Mountain Home High School students. The onsets of symptoms of these cases range from mid-September to mid-January.

In light of circulating pertussis, we strongly urge you to use every opportunity to ensure that your patients receive pertussis vaccine! In addition to the vaccine series for infants and young children, in 2005 tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccines (Tdap) were licensed in the U.S. for persons aged 11 through 64 years. That gave us another tool to keep people healthy and to control the spread of pertussis.

In light of the current epidemiology of pertussis in Ada and Elmore Counties, we're encouraging all those ages 11 through 18 years who have not already had a Tdap vaccination to contact their healthcare provider about getting one now. This will offer protection against pertussis in addition to providing a tetanus booster, and may prevent adolescents from missing school and sports activities due to illness.

Adults under 65 years should receive Tdap vaccine once in their life times. Getting vaccinated now helps reduce the risk of pertussis. In adults, pertussis can cause prolonged cough illness and time away from work.

The following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website will give you vaccine recommendations and information for adults, infants and toddlers, and pre-teens and adolescents.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/spec-grps/default.htm>