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The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) received two new case reports of **pertussis** (whooping cough) in an 11 year old and 35 year old, for the week of May 4, 2015. Epidemiologic investigations are ongoing to identify close contacts. To date, a total of 16 cases of Pertussis are laboratory confirmed and one epi-linked.

Pertussis is a very serious disease that can easily spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing. Its severe cough can last for weeks or months, sometimes leading to coughing fits and/or vomiting. Anyone can get pertussis, but it can be very dangerous for infants younger than 12 months old and people with weakened immune systems.

Recommendations to prevent Pertussis:

**1. Vaccinate to protect.**

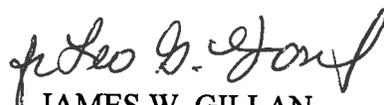
- Children should get five doses of the diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine for best protection. Make sure your children receive all their doses at each of the following ages: 2 months; 4 months; 6 months; 15 - 18 months; and 4 - 6 years of age.
- All preteens, teens, and adults- including pregnant women in their third trimester- should get the tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

**2. Minimize the spread.**

- Protect infants and young children by minimizing exposure (close contact) to persons who have cold symptoms or cough illness.
- Stay home from school or work when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often.
- Anyone suspected of having whooping cough or who is exposed to a person with the disease should be seen by their physician.

All health care providers are urged to remain on alert for possible cases of pertussis and to **promptly report suspect cases** to the Immunization Program, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, at 735-7143/7148 or 735-7135.

For more information, please call the Immunization Program at 735-7143/7135.

  
**JAMES W. GILLAN**  
Director