

**Health**

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division  
Communicable Disease Control  
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Dear Health Care Provider:

**Re: Pertussis in Manitoba: Update**

**Increase in cases:** there have been 106 lab-confirmed cases of pertussis reported to Manitoba Health since the beginning of 2012. There were 31 cases reported over the same time period last year. Overall incidence has increased from 2.5 per 100,000 (2007-2011) to 8.5 per 100,000 in 2012. In 2012, pertussis incidence in the most vulnerable age group, infants less than 1 year, has more than doubled compared to the five year average.

**Information on pertussis signs and symptoms, diagnostic testing, case and contact management** can be found online in Manitoba Health's Communicable Disease Management Protocol at:  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/index.html>

Public Health is asking clinicians to ensure their clients and patients of all ages are **up-to-date with respect to pertussis immunizations**. In addition to the childhood series, which includes pertussis immunization at 2, 4, 6, 18 months, age 4-6 years and ages 14-16, **Manitoba Health recently expanded its adult Tdap immunization program as follows:**

All adults who are due for a Td booster and have never previously received an acellular Pertussis vaccine; **OR** Primary caregivers of newborn infants up to 6 months of age who have never previously received an acellular Pertussis vaccine regardless of when their last Td vaccine was given.

The American Committee of Immunization Practices, as well as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists currently advise Tdap immunization for pregnant women who have previously not received Tdap, preferably in the third or late second trimester. In Canada, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, as well as the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada recommend immunization of pregnant women be assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering the benefits and theoretical risks of immunization. Medical officers of health, physicians and public health nurses assessing the local epidemiology as well as patient-specific risk factors, may advise Tdap immunization of pregnant women in certain circumstances.

Please share this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility or clinic.

Sincerely,

*"Original Signed By"*

Kathleen Messner R.N. B.N.  
Director, Communicable Disease Control

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Tim Hilderman, MD FRCPC,  
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