



Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

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

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Manitoba

This year, 51 lab-confirmed cases of pertussis have been reported in the province, with over half of these cases in infants and children less than 5 years of age. This is higher than what has been reported in previous years. Cases have been largely concentrated in Southern Health-Santé Sud, with the majority unimmunized.

Manitoba Health, Healthy Living and Seniors (MHLS) updated its eligibility criteria for publicly-funded (i.e. free-of-charge) tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine as follows:

- Individuals at 14 to 16 years of age (Grade 8 or 9 school-based program).
- Individuals who missed the vaccine in Grade 8 or 9 and are born on or after January 1, 1989.
- Adults who are due for a Td booster and have not previously received a pertussis-containing vaccine in adulthood*.
- Primary caregivers of a newborn infant up to 6 months of age who have not previously received a pertussis-containing vaccine in adulthood*.
- Pregnant women \geq 26 weeks of pregnancy who have not received a dose of a pertussis-containing vaccine in adulthood.

**There is no minimum interval between the Td and Tdap vaccine.*

Please continue to offer the primary series vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib) to infants at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months of age, as well as the booster vaccine (Tdap-IPV) at 4 to 6 years of age to all your patients. For those individuals previously unimmunized against pertussis, please refer to Manitoba's *Recommended Immunization Schedule for Individuals NOT Previously Immunized* at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/not.html.

If you suspect pertussis, please submit an NP swab (cotton and calcium alginate are not suitable) in Amie's Transport Medium as soon as possible (within 48 hours) to the laboratory.

For more information, please visit: www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/manual/index.html.

MHLS provides health information resources (e.g. factsheets, posters) free-of-charge to all health care providers; please go to www.gov.mb.ca/health/jmc/index.html for more information.

Sincerely,

"Original signed by"

Richard Baydack, PhD
Director, Communicable Disease Control

"Original signed by"

Tim Hilderan, MD FRCPC
Medical Lead, Communicable Disease Control