

Whooping cough outbreak continues in McKinley County

Written by Staff Reports
Friday, 04 May 2018 07:59

NMDOH encourages vaccination for vulnerable residents

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Department of Health reported additional cases of whooping cough May 2 in an ongoing community-wide outbreak in McKinley County. The DOH urges New Mexico residents in at-risk groups to protect themselves by getting vaccinated.

As of May 1, there are 26 laboratory-confirmed cases of whooping cough and an additional 39 probable cases. When NMDOH first announced this outbreak on March 14, there were eight laboratory-confirmed cases of whooping cough, with 15 probable cases. These cases continue to be primarily occurring in school-aged children and their close household contacts.

Whooping cough, also called pertussis, is a highly contagious respiratory illness that spreads by coughing and sneezing while in close contact with others. Left untreated, it can spread from a single infected person for several weeks, with people in the early stage of illness being the most contagious.

Whooping cough can be a serious illness. Symptoms usually begin appearing as cold symptoms such as a cough, runny nose, sore throat, and usually little or no fever. After several days, the cough may become more severe; it may come in spasms or as a series of coughs without a chance to breathe between coughs. There may be a gasp or “whoop” and/or gagging or vomiting at the end of the coughing spasm.

Infants, particularly those less than six months of age, who contract whooping cough are at increased risk of complications, hospitalization, and death.

The following groups should be prioritized for immediate vaccination with an age-appropriate pertussis-containing vaccine:

All pregnant women during each pregnancy between the 27th and 36th weeks of pregnancy

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Anyone caring for or visiting an infant under one year of age

All health care personnel who provide services to pregnant women and infants

All childcare personnel who work in settings that include infants

Early diagnosis and treatment of potential cases, and immediate reporting of cases to NMDOH for public health investigation and contact management, will help in limiting more cases from occurring. Healthcare providers should be vigilant for possible additional cases among their patients, especially infants and caregivers of infants.

In addition, NMDOH recommends the following to help reduce the spread of whooping cough:

All pregnant women should receive a Tdap booster after the 20th week of pregnancy with each pregnancy

All infants and children should receive the primary series of pertussis vaccine, called DTaP, at 2, 4, 6 and 12-18 months of age

All children should receive a booster dose, called DTaP, prior to school entry at 4 to 6 years of age

Children between 7 and 10 years of age who are behind on pertussis vaccine should get a Tdap

Children should receive a booster dose of Tdap at entry to middle school if they haven't received one previously

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All teens or adults should receive a Tdap booster if one was not given at entry to middle school

Anyone caring for or spending time with an infant should receive a Tdap booster if they have not received one in the past, including people 65 and older

All healthcare personnel should receive a Tdap booster, as soon as possible, if they have not received or are unsure if they have previously received a dose of Tdap

You can find more information about whooping cough at: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Jail Authority Board has scheduled their meeting for Monday, May 07, 2018 at 2:30 pm.

This meeting will be held in the Commissioner Chambers, Third Floor of the McKinley County Courthouse, 207 West Hill, Gallup, New Mexico. A copy of the agenda will be available 72 hours prior to the meeting in the Manager's Office and the County Clerk's Office.

Auxiliary aides for the disabled are available upon request; please contact Elvera Grey at (505) 726-8962 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

All interested parties are invited to attend.

Done this 3rd day of May, 2018

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JAIL AUTHORITY BOARD

/S/ Carol Bowman-Muskett, Chairperson

Publication date: May 4th, 2018