



Cowlitz County Health Department

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News Release

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Longview, WA 98632**

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Cowlitz County's Pertussis numbers continued to trend upwards at the end of 2011. "We have had two cases reported in January to date", reports Hilary Gillette-Walch, RN, MPH, Clinical Services Manager for Cowlitz County Health Department.

Last year, higher numbers were reported to be due to the cyclical nature of the disease. Since the recommendation for a pertussis booster is fairly new and involves the need to get adults vaccinated as well, we can expect to have a population that is not fully protected from pertussis for a while. Pertussis is potentially serious for children under age 1 who are at risk of complications like hospitalization and death. It is part of the routine childhood vaccine series but immunity wanes after about 5 years. Current public health recommendations are for one booster (Tdap) for everyone between ages 11 and 64. Public Health newly recommends that adults aged 65 years and older with close contact with infants, who previously have not received Tdapj, should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis.

For more information on Pertussis, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis>.

<p>*Cowlitz County pertussis numbers are:</p>

<p>2005 – 4</p>

<p>2006 – 16</p>

<p>2007 -2</p>

<p>2008 – 2</p>

<p>2009 – 5</p>

<p>2010 – 25</p>

<p>2011 – 69 (24 in August)</p>

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