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Provider Health Alert

Pertussis Epidemic

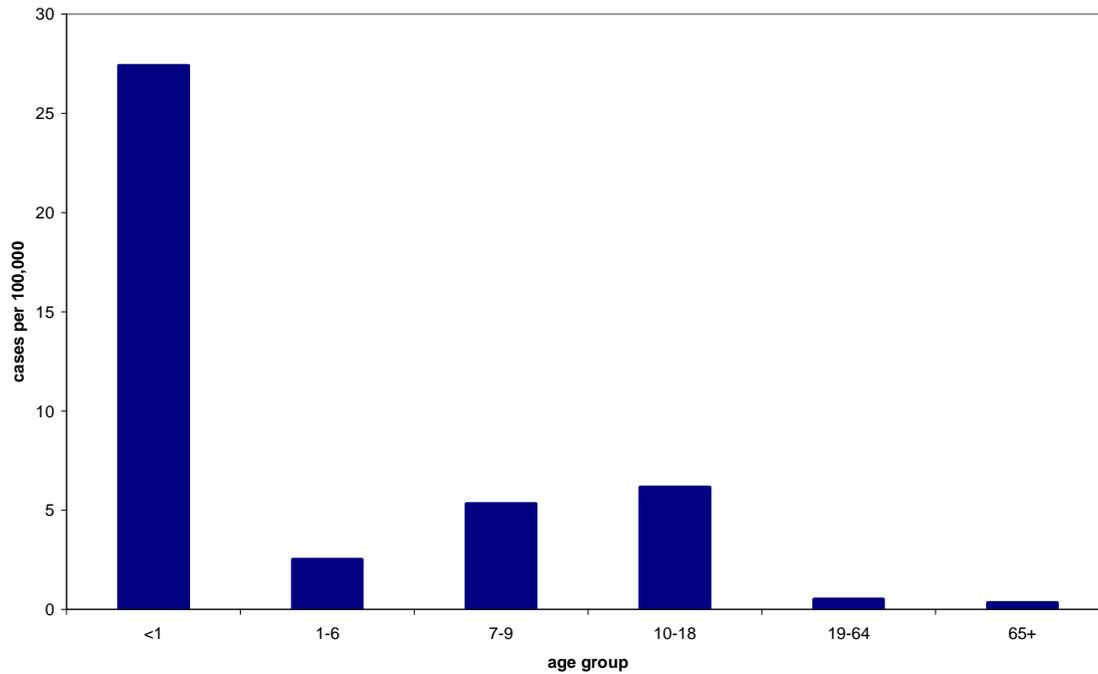
The State of California is experiencing a dramatic surge in identified pertussis cases, especially in infants who are at extreme risk for serious morbidity and mortality. Santa Barbara County has not seen a parallel increase in cases, but San Luis Obispo County is having a surge of cases. It is very likely that the case rate will increase in Santa Barbara County. Providers are encouraged to consider the diagnosis of pertussis for any age individual with persistent cough, to order testing to identify cases and to vaccinate children according to established schedules and adults who have contact with young children, particularly infants. All pregnant women and recently post partum women are very strongly advised to be vaccinated with Tdap vaccine. The most common source of infection for an infant is the child's mother. All healthcare workers are recommended to receive Tdap vaccination to eliminate transmission in healthcare settings.

- As of 6/15/2010, there have been **910** cases of pertussis reported in 2010 for a state rate of **2.4 cases/100,000**. This is a **4-fold increase** from the number of reported cases during the same time period in 2009 when **219** cases were reported.
- There have been five 2010 deaths to date, all in Hispanic infants <3 months of age. Age at symptom onset was 5 days – 8 weeks.
- There are an additional **600 suspect cases** currently being investigated by local health jurisdictions for a **total of over 1,500 cases**. From January through June of 2005 there were 1,261 pertussis cases; these data suggest the disease burden is at or above the levels seen in 2005, which was a 45 year high in cases.
- Increases are being reported from all over the state but seem to be highest in the Bay Area and Central Valley.
- Counties with notably high rates are:
 - Del Norte (52 cases/100,000)
 - Fresno (15 cases/100,000)
 - Kings (7 cases/100,000)
 - Marin (47 cases/100,000)
 - Madera (16 cases/100,000)
 - **San Luis Obispo (33 cases/100,000)**
 - Sonoma (8 cases/100,000)
- Of note, the increase in pertussis cases in Del Norte County began earlier this year. When the increase was noted, the local health jurisdiction requested free Tdap from CDPH and immunized a large number of people, which appears to have decreased transmission.
- **Healthcare providers may consider an accelerated infant DTaP schedule.** Per the American Academy of Pediatrics 2009 Red Book, "If pertussis is prevalent in the community, immunization can be started as early as 6 weeks of age, and doses 2 and 3 in the primary series can be given at intervals of 4 weeks."

Please connect to the CDPH website for additional information.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/Pertussis.aspx>

Pertussis incidence by age -- California, 2010



Santa Barbara County

There have been 5 pertussis cases in 2010 and 35 in 2009 reported and confirmed by the Public Health Department. Many cases go unrecognized or unreported.

PHD Health Care Centers & Immunization Opportunities

The PHD operates immunization clinics at the following sites. Please refer children and adults to their primary care provider to receive vaccination. If patients do not have a primary provider or do not have coverage for the pertussis vaccine, then encourage them to call the closest PHD site to learn when immunization clinics will be offered.

Please call to learn the hours and process for referring patients for pertussis vaccinations.

Carpinteria Healthcare Center	560-1050
Franklin Healthcare Center	568-2099
Lompoc Healthcare Center	737-6400
Santa Maria Healthcare Center	346-7230

END