



RAVALLI COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH HAN INFORMATION UPDATE HEALTH ALERT

Date June 21, 2023

Please forward to all healthcare providers

Pertussis ADVISORY:

Ravalli County is currently investigating 7 case of pertussis. We are working to identify **close contacts** in an effort to prevent a community-wide outbreak. We ask that you please be aware that pertussis is once again circulating in the community.

To better control this increasing pertussis activity in our county, Health Care Providers are asked to:

- **Suspect**: Consider evaluation for pertussis when patients report cough. Please have a high index of suspicion for infants presenting with respiratory illness, as presentation can be atypical. Ask if infants live in the homes of symptomatic patients who may be contacts to pertussis. Presentation can be atypical in older children and adults, particularly if they have been vaccinated.
- **Test**: Test for pertussis in symptomatic patients.
 - **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)** is the specified test
- **Treat** suspect and confirmed cases.
- **Prophylaxis** all household members of **positive** cases and any identified close contacts to **confirmed** cases. Close contacts being anyone within 3 feet for an hour.
 - **Prophylaxis Asymptomatic** contacts to confirmed cases. They do not need to quarantine.
 - **Symptomatic** contacts to confirmed cases should be **tested and treated**. They should remain in **isolation** until they finish their antibiotic or receive a negative test.
- **Vaccinate**: Emphasize being up-to-date with pertussis-containing vaccine to all children and adults.
- **Report**: Please report **suspect and confirmed** cases of pertussis to Ravalli County Public Health. Call 406-375-6672 or Fax 406-375-6785

Thank you

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