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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Napa County Health & Human Services Agency

Health & Human Services Agency
Public Health Division

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HEALTH ADVISORY
Increase in Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

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What is happening?

Napa County has seen a dramatic increase in pertussis (whooping cough) cases in the last few months. Pertussis is spread through coughing and sneezing and can cause serious illness in infants, children and adults. The disease usually starts with cold-like symptoms and maybe a mild cough or fever. After 1 to 2 weeks, severe coughing can begin. Unlike the common cold, pertussis can become a series of coughing fits that continues for weeks.

Why should I be concerned?

Infants (especially under 3 months) die from pertussis every year. In children and adults pertussis can cause severe coughing fits followed by a “whoop” sound, broken ribs from coughing and hospitalization. People can miss weeks of school or work because of pertussis.

What can I do to stop the spread of pertussis?

Get vaccinated. For children younger than 10 years ensure their Dtap shots are up to date. Children 10 years and older and adults, especially those with close contact to infants, should get a Tdap booster shot if they haven’t had one in the last 2 years. All pregnant women should get a Tdap shot in their third trimester of pregnancy to give some protection to their baby.

If you or your child do not have health insurance or have Medi-Cal but do not have access to Dtap or Tdap vaccines call Napa County Public Health (707) 253-4270.

What should I do if I think I have pertussis?

Contact your healthcare provider immediately and tell them you or someone in your care may have pertussis.

Where can I get more information?

For information in English & Spanish visit: www.countyofnapa.org/publichealth/pertussis

For 24/7 recorded information in English & Spanish call (707) 253-4540



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