



**Yamhill County**  
**Health and Human Services**  
**Public Health**

# ALERT

**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO  
Health Care Providers**

To: Health Care Providers in Yamhill County

From: Yamhill County Public Health

Date: **05/31/24**

Regarding: **Pertussis Rising in Oregon -  
Includes Updated Number of Cases**

Phone number for follow-up: **(503) 434-7483**

*(Includes Updated Number of Cases)*

**Dear Local Health Department Colleagues,**

## **Pertussis Rising in Oregon**

In 2024 as of May 29th, 178 cases of pertussis have been reported to the Oregon Health Authority, compared to 20 cases at this time in 2023. Reported numbers of pertussis in Oregon in 2024 are roughly in line with numbers seen during similar time frames in the immediate pre-pandemic years (93 in 2019 and 248 in 2018). Pertussis is cyclical and before COVID manifested peaks in incidence every three to five years. In 2012, 910 cases were reported—the highest annual count since 1953.

Among the nine counties with reported pertussis to date in 2024, Lane County leads with 64 cases, followed by Multnomah (41), Clackamas (33), Deschutes (15), Washington (13), and Jefferson (8). Three other counties have also seen cases. School-aged children and adolescents account for 91 (52%) of these cases. Among them, only 51 (55%) are up to date with recommended pertussis vaccinations.

Infants have the highest risk of pertussis-related complications and death as well as the highest reported incidence rate. During 2003–2023, infants accounted for 12% of cases and 76% of pertussis hospitalizations. Oregon pertussis deaths have been limited to infants; five have occurred since 2003. Tdap is highly effective at preventing pertussis hospitalization in infants when pregnant women choose to be vaccinated during their 27-36<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. Among 16 infant cases reported in Oregon to date in 2024, only one mother had a documented dose of Tdap during the pregnancy.

### **Key Recommendation:**

To protect young infants, we recommend that those who are pregnant choose the Tdap vaccination at 27–36 weeks of pregnancy—irrespective of the mother’s prior history of receiving Tdap. Vaccination will stimulate the development of maternal anti-pertussis antibodies, which will pass through the placenta and protect infants—particularly those too young to be vaccinated against the disease.

When an infant or pregnant woman is in the household of someone with pertussis, all household members should receive a course of antibiotics effective against *Bordetella pertussis*—typically, a 5-day course of azithromycin.

### **Other Recommendations:**

Vaccination against pertussis is routinely recommended for infants, children, adolescents, and adults.

- All children should be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis at 2, 4, 6 and 15–18 months, and again at 4 years to kindergarten age.
- All persons ages 10 and older should receive a single dose of Tdap.

The only methods for the laboratory diagnosis of pertussis are culture and polymerase chain reaction. PCR can provide timely results with improved sensitivity over culture.

### **Guidance and Resources:**

- Use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis vaccines: updated recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices—United States, 2019. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6903a5.htm>.
- Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division Pertussis Investigative Guidelines. Available at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/ReportingCommunicableDisease/ReportingGuidelines/Documents/pertussis.pdf>.

### **Additional resources:**

- Maternal pertussis vaccination, infant immunization, and risk of pertussis. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5754921/>
- Pertussis vaccine performance in an epidemic year—Oregon, 2012. Available at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24748523/>
- Suffer the infants: a severe case of pertussis in Oregon, 2012. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4529826/>
- <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pertussis1/Pertussis-PHR-Aug2019.pdf>

For questions, please contact Juventila Liko: [juventila.liko@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:juventila.liko@oha.oregon.gov).

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**Unless otherwise noted, feel free to share this HAN notification with:**

- **Others within your organization.**
- **Professionals within your health, preparedness, and response affiliations.**

**Oregon 24/7 disease reporting: 971-673-1111**