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IMMUNIZATION UPDATES - PERTUSSIS

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1. Ongoing US Pertussis Outbreak Activity

Pertussis or whooping cough is a very contagious respiratory illness caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. Pertussis is a common disease in the United States, with reoccurring epidemics every 3 to 5 years and frequent outbreaks. In 2010, 27,550 cases were reported in the U.S., but many more go undiagnosed and unreported. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1959 when 40,000 cases were reported.

- In the state of Washington, there have been 2,325 cases reported statewide through June 9, 2012, compared to the 965 cases reported in all 2011.

- In 2010, 9,143 cases (including 10 infant deaths) were reported in California. This is the most cases reported in 63 years when 9,394 cases were reported in 1947.

- On May 31st several confirmed cases of pertussis were reported in the U.S. military community on Okinawa. The cases were identified in both adolescents and adults, according to U. S. Naval Hospital Okinawa Preventive Medicine Department officials.

To learn more about the disease, symptoms, available vaccines and outbreaks, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

2. Updated ACIP Tdap Recommendations

Over the last two years the ACIP has continued to expand and update the recommendation for use of the Tdap vaccine. This past March, ACIP released additional provisional recommendations for use of Tdap in adults aged 65 years and older. Current ACIP recommendations for all ages:

- For routine use, adolescents aged 11 through 18 years who have completed the recommended childhood DTP/DTaP vaccination series and adults aged 19 years and older should receive a single dose of Tdap.
- Providers should not miss an opportunity to vaccinate persons aged 65 years and older with Tdap, and may administer the vaccine that they have available. When feasible, for adults aged 65 years and older, Boostrix should be used; however, either vaccine product administered to a person aged 65 years and older provides protection and is considered valid.
- Administer one dose of Tdap during pregnancy, preferably during the third or late second trimester (after 20 weeks' gestation) for women who have not previously received Tdap. If not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately postpartum.
- Tdap should be administered regardless of interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine.
- Adolescents and adults (e.g., parents, siblings, grandparents, child-care providers, and health-care personnel) who have or anticipate having close contact with an infant aged <12 months should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis if they have not previously received Tdap. Ideally, these adolescents and adults should receive Tdap at least 2 weeks before beginning close contact with the infant.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#tdap>

3. HCP Continuing Education Opportunity: Coughing Up the Facts on Pertussis

The CDC posted their most recent Immunization NetConference "Coughing up the Facts on Pertussis" in archive status. The NetConference, discuss emerging trends, diagnosis, treatment protocol and vaccine recommendations for the prevention of B.pertussis. CME/CE credits will be available until 1 Jul 12.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/ciinc/Pertussis.htm>

4. Listen to the Sounds of Pertussis

50% of infants with reported cases of whooping cough must be hospitalized. The coughing can be so severe that it is difficult for babies to eat, drink or breathe. 1 in 100 infants hospitalized with pertussis will die. To listen to the sounds of whooping cough:

<http://www.pkids.org/diseases/pertussis.html>

5. Whooping Cough Prevention Materials

For print materials, PSAs, formatted articles, podcasts and videos promoting vaccination and pertussis prevention:

U.S. Army Public Health Command

http://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/Uploads/DownloadableProds/251_Whooping_Cough_Poster.pdf

<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/searchResults.aspx?hotlist=39>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/pubs-tools/multimedia.html>

Immunization Action Coalition

<http://www.immunize.org/pertussis>

California Department of Health Immunization Branch

<http://eziz.org/resources/pertussis-promo-materials>

Military Vaccine Agency

<http://www.vaccines.mil>

<http://www.smallpox.mil>

<http://www.anthrax.mil>

(877)GET-VACC

<mailto:vaccines@amedd.army.mil>

Please feel free to pass this message on to your colleagues. To add or remove your name from this mailing list, please click here --

<http://www.vaccines.mil/listserv>