



Pertussis

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a respiratory illness caused by a bacteria. Pertussis is spread through the air when infected people cough or sneeze. Common symptoms of pertussis in very young children include a long series of coughs followed by a “whooping” noise. In older children and adults, the illness may begin with an upper respiratory illness that starts with cold-like symptoms and an irritating cough that becomes more severe over one to two weeks.

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, there has been a 461% increase in pertussis disease this year. As of October 27, 2012, there have been 1,358 confirmed and probable cases in Iowa, compared to the previous five year average of 242. In Scott County alone, there have been 126 confirmed and probable cases reported. The actual number of cases in Scott County and Iowa is probably much higher, because most adults with pertussis are not diagnosed or reported.

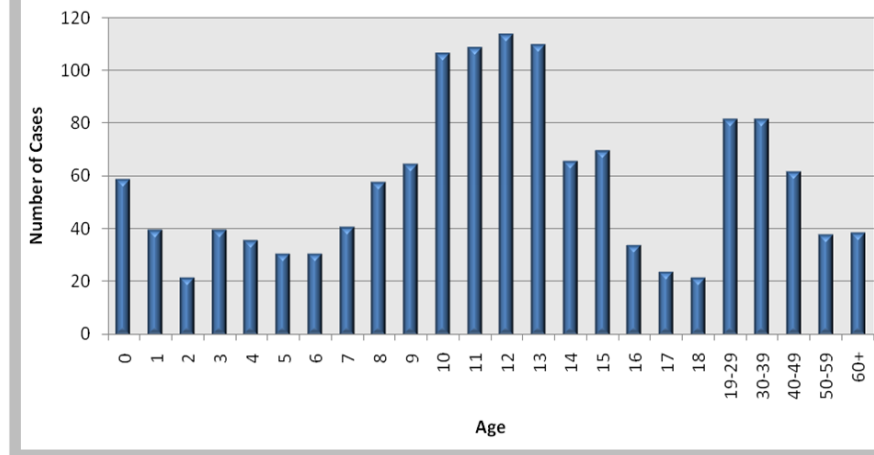
Pertussis may be prevented through routine immunization. Children receive pertussis vaccine series beginning at 2 months of age, and are recommended to get a booster dose of pertussis vaccine at 11 or 12 years of age. Most adults have not had a pertussis vaccination since childhood and probably

have no immunity to pertussis. While children ages 5 to 14 years make up the bulk of reported cases, it is important to note that adults are considered primary “spreaders” of the disease. Thus it is especially important that adults who are around children, receive pertussis vaccine to rebuild their immunity. Being vaccinated will help protect infants and young children who have not received the full vaccination series. Since, infants are more likely to die from pertussis, it is important that pregnant women as well as household contacts, grandparents, and care givers of infants be vaccinated to protect the infant from exposure. Contact your family doctor to review your immunizations and determine if a vaccine such as the Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) is needed for

either you or your children.

Practicing proper handwashing provides added protection against pertussis. Be sure to wash your hands with soap and warm running water, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing at important times, like before eating or after caring for a sick person, can protect you against illness. Other ways to prevent the spread of disease are by covering your mouth when you cough and staying away from others when they are coughing. It is also important to stay home when you are sick to avoid infecting others. If you or a family member have pertussis, it is important to stay home and away from others until you have completed five days of antibiotics and you or your family member are no longer contagious.

YTD Confirmed and Probable Pertussis in Iowa by Age

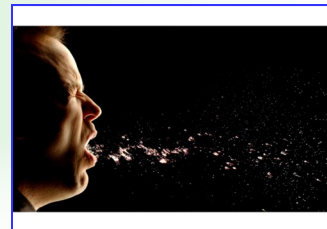


Tdap (Pertussis) Vaccine Clinics

Over the past several months, Scott County has experienced an increase in pertussis cases in the community. Many of these cases have been in school-age children and teens. In order to prevent outbreaks from occurring in our community, Scott County Health Department will be scheduling Tdap vaccine clinics in area schools for students in 6th through 12th grade, **regardless of insurance status**. If your student's school is participating, you will receive a packet of information containing the following items.

- Parent/Guardian Tdap Information Letter.
- Tdap Vaccination Consent Form.
- Tdap Vaccine Information Statement.

You may also find these documents on www.scottcountyiowa.com/health



**SCOTT COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Scott County Administrative Center, 4th Floor

600 West 4th Street

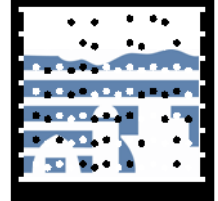
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Web site: www.scottcountyiowa.com/health



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Scott County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, November 15; 12:00-1:00 p.m.
*Open to the Public. Location: Scott County
Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*

OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please subscribe to the Public Health Connection at www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/connection or e-mail health@scottcountyiowa.com or call 563-326-8618.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.