



# Dutchess County Department of Health Public Health Advisory\*

Subscribe to Public Health Updates at: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Health/16586.htm>

Michael C. Caldwell, MD, MPH  
Commissioner of Health



William R. Steinhaus  
County Executive

## Pertussis Responsible for Two Infant Deaths

Date: June 14, 2011 - 2:00 pm

*Please Distribute to: Healthcare Providers, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, Critical Care, and Infection Control.*

*Schools: Please distribute to School Nurses.*

### **SUMMARY:**

- There has been a significant increase of Pertussis cases in surrounding communities, and more recently, two infant deaths in our region in 2011.
- Providers should use PCR or culture to confirm a diagnosis of Pertussis as early after onset of symptoms as possible.
- Tdap vaccine is highly recommended for all persons 11 years of age and older especially those caring for infants. A waiting period after previous Tetanus vaccination is not required.
- **It is strongly recommended that Healthcare Providers also the Tdap vaccine to protect their patients. Previous outbreaks in newborn populations have been linked to exposure from infected healthcare workers.**
- Confirmed and suspect cases of Pertussis should be reported to the Dutchess County Department of Health's Communicable Disease Division at 845 486-3402 (M-F, 9-5).

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious disease caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. Early diagnosis and treatment of Pertussis is critical.

Household members and close contacts of persons with suspected Pertussis should receive prophylaxis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend using Zithromax for 2 to 5 days as the preferred treatment for these individuals. Even those properly vaccinated with five (5) recommended doses may still be susceptible in early adolescence and throughout adulthood. Therefore, Tdap immunization for those 11 years of age and older is strongly advised. Additional information regarding Pertussis may be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/signs-symptoms.html>

\***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Dutchess County Department of Health**

387 Main Street, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 • (845) 486-3400 • Fax (845) 486-3447 • TTY (845) 486-3417