

Pertussis Frequently Asked Questions

May 2014

An increase in Whooping Cough (Pertussis) is being seen in Riverside County and other jurisdictions in California. Parents are encouraged to protect themselves and their children by getting vaccinated.

What is Whooping Cough (Pertussis)?

- Whooping Cough is an infectious disease caused by bacteria.
- It is easily spread from person to person through close contact.
- It is a very serious illness in infants.

How can the public protect themselves?

- Make sure children are up-to-date on their Immunizations
- Obtain a Tetanus booster (Tdap) especially close contacts of unvaccinated infants; pregnant and post-partum women.
- Cover cough and wash hands frequently.

When should vaccine be given?

- Routine schedule: DTaP at 2 – 4 – 6 months, 15 – 18 months, 4 – 6 years of age.
- Adolescents and adults need one booster shot for whooping cough (Tdap).
- Pregnant women should receive a dose of Tdap during each pregnancy between 27 and 36 weeks.

Where can public obtain Tdap?

- The public should contact their health provider to discuss vaccinations
- Vaccinations are also available through the Riverside County Family Care Centers. Call 1 (800) 720-9553, for clinic locations.

How many cases have been reported in Riverside County?

- Between January 2014 through April 28, 2014, 53 cases have been reported in Riverside County, compared to 12 cases for the same time period in 2013.

When was the previous increase in Pertussis in Riverside County?

- Four hundred and sixty one cases were reported in 2010, compared to 64 cases in 2005.

Have there been any deaths in Riverside County in 2014?

- A death of an infant was reported in February 2014.

What is County of Riverside Department of Public Health (DOPH) doing to address the problem?

- Promoting and offering vaccinations.
- Providing recommendations to the medical community.
- Testing, treatment and vaccinations.
- Investigation of cases.
- Conducting enhanced surveillance.

Where can the public obtain additional information?

- <http://www.rivcoph.org>