

Possible Pertussis Cases in Manhattan, KS

There have been 3 probable cases of pertussis identified in Riley County. The third case is a young adult that is unrelated to the first two cases

“The fact that this case is unrelated to the first two adds significance to the concerns of the community, because it indicates that the existence of pertussis is more widespread than just one group of close contacts,” stated Susanne Kufahl, Riley County Health Officer. “We will continue to keep the public updated and strongly urge the public to get vaccinated.”

Immunization is recommended at 2, 4, 6 and 12 months of age with a booster at kindergarten entry. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that persons 11 years of age through 64 years of age receive the Tdap vaccine (Tetanus and Diphtheria and Pertussis). Persons over 64 years of age should be vaccinated if they will be in close contact with infants.

Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a bacterial disease that is easily transmitted from person to person. It spread through the air during talking, sneezing or coughing. It can be a very serious illness, especially for young infants. During the first 1 to 2 weeks, persons with whooping cough may only experience a runny nose and non-productive cough, similar to a cold. Young children may have more serious coughing fits, often followed by a whooping sound as they try to catch their breath. After coughing, a person often feels well. Coughing spells may continue for several weeks or months. Adults and children 7 years of age and older who get whooping cough may have only a prolonged cough.

Although whooping cough is often thought of as a childhood disease, whooping cough can occur among persons of any age.

Anyone with an unexplained acute cough illness or who has had close contact to a person with whooping cough should contact their health care provider. Early diagnosis and treatment can shorten the contagious period. Antibiotics should be given to all household and other close contacts to prevent spread of the disease.

Pottawatomie County Health Department has pertussis immunization available for both adults and children. We also have a grant program available for any parents with a child less than 12 months of age. This program provides the Tdap vaccine to these parents for \$14 regardless of income or insurance status. Please call the Pottawatomie County Health Department if you have any questions, 785-457-3719.