

HEALTH ALERT: PERTUSSIS UPDATE

October 2024

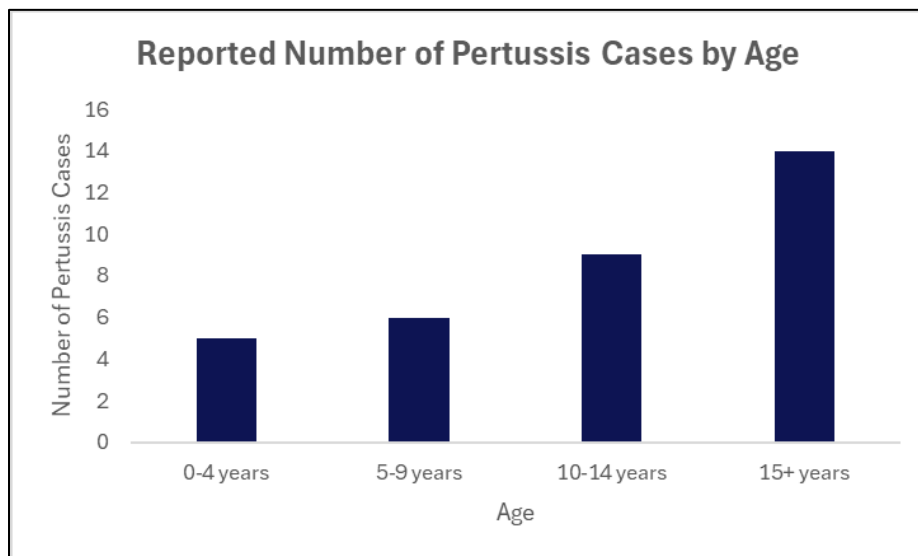
Background

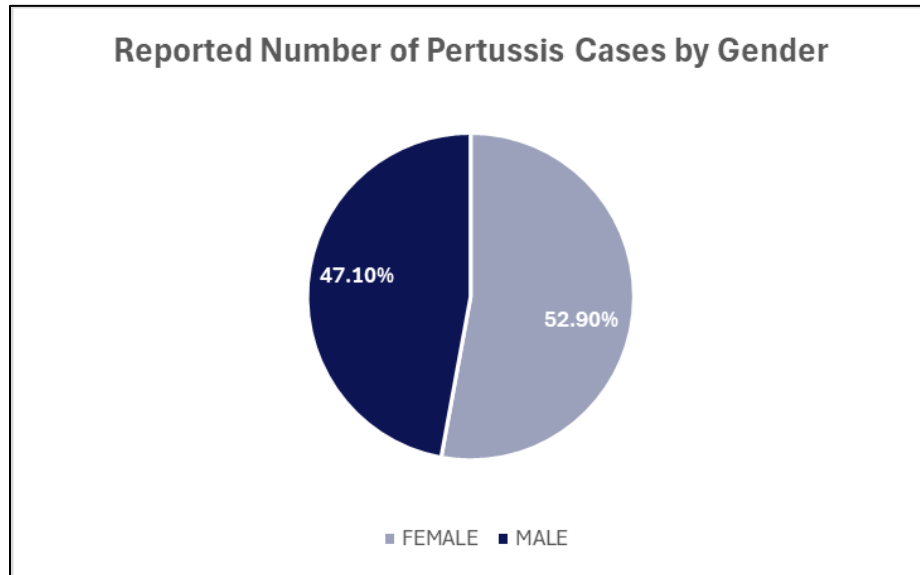
Pertussis (whooping cough) is a highly contagious respiratory illness. It is spread person to person through the air. Symptom onset is usually 7 to 10 days after exposure but can be as late as 21 days. An individual with pertussis can be contagious from the start of symptoms for at least two weeks after cough onset. Taking antibiotics early in the illness can help shorten the period in which someone is contagious.

It is important to remember that Pertussis can occur at any age. Among older children and adults, illness can often be mistaken for bronchitis and/or an upper respiratory infection. **Pertussis illness should be considered in older children and adults who have a persistent cough lasting more than 7-14 days, that cannot be attributed to another specific illness.**

Recent Trends

- Delaware County continues to see an increase in pertussis cases.
- As of September 21, 2024 CDC preliminary data shows approximately five times as many cases have been reported compared to the same time in 2023. Cases this year are also higher than what was seen at the same time in 2019 prior to the pandemic.
- So far this year DPHD has had 34 cases of pertussis. In August and September alone the Health District has had 18 reported cases.
 - Case Demographics:







Vaccination

According to the CDC and recent patterns in data, there is an expected increase in pertussis cases both in vaccinated and unvaccinated populations due to protection from the vaccine fading over time. Pertussis vaccines provide strong protection against illness. However, as protection fades it is important to speak with patients about the vaccine schedule and ensure patients are up-to-date on these vaccines.

People of all ages need WHOOPING COUGH VACCINES



DTaP for young children	Tdap for preteens	Tdap for pregnant women	Tdap for adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 2, 4, and 6 months ✓ 15 through 18 months ✓ 4 through 6 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 11 through 12 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During the 27-36th week of each pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Anytime for those who have never received it

www.cdc.gov/whoopingcough 

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/cases-of-whooping-cough-on-the-rise.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/vaccines/index.html>