



**Office of the
Chief Medical
Health Officer**

August 2, 2016

Sustained Pertussis and Mumps

Pertussis

Pertussis activity remains sustained and dispersed in many Vancouver Island communities. From April 1-July 31, 2016 there have been 165 cases identified with half of the cases in children less than 14 years of age. Of particular concern, 12 cases were infants less than one year.

We ask that physicians consider pertussis in the differential with any child or adult with a prolonged cough illness, even if they are fully vaccinated. In these cases please test by collecting a nasopharyngeal swab and treat according to the BCCDC treatment guidelines which can be accessed at www.bccdc.ca. The Island Health Communicable Disease program will investigate each case to identify high risk contacts and provide recommendations for chemoprophylaxis. High risk contacts include infants less than 1 year, pregnant women in the 3rd trimester and household members of either infants <1 year or pregnant women in the 3rd trimester.

The best defense against the severe complications of pertussis is being up to date in recommended immunizations. The majority of pediatric pertussis cases are either un-immunized or partially immunized however there have been some cases of pertussis in fully vaccinated children. Vaccine effectiveness tends to wane over time. Pertussis immunization in children and adolescents is publically funded.

An adult booster dose of pertussis containing vaccine is recommended by the National Committee on Immunization (NACI) but needs to be purchased privately as it is not currently publically funded. Also noteworthy is that a routine third trimester immunization is not currently recommended by NACI and evidence does not support the use of an adult booster dose as an outbreak intervention or in "cocooning".

Mumps

Mumps activity persists. Since April 1 there have been 18 cases of mumps, 17 of which are from South Island. All of the cases have been identified in adults with 13 cases in the 20-29 year age bracket.

In regards to lab samples, preference is given to buccal swab (up to 5 days after symptom onset) and urine (up to 14 days from symptom onset) for virus identification. Please refer to the July 8, 2016 MHO Newsletter for the steps to be taken if you suspect mumps http://www.viha.ca/mho/publications/physician_newsletters.htm

Please call your local CD nurse or MHO to discuss exclusion recommendations for any health care worker with either mumps illness or exposure to someone with active illness. Individuals born after 1970 are recommended to receive 2 doses of MMR vaccine. For all health care workers born in 1957 or onwards, two doses of MMR is recommended.

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After Hours On Call

1.800.204.6166

Please call the Communicable Disease Program in your area if you suspect either of these diseases. The CD nurses are an excellent resource to assist you with case management questions and will undertake contact follow up.

CD South Island: 250.388.2225 (toll free 1.866.665.6626)

CD Central Island: 250.740.2616 (toll free 1.866.770.7798)

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