



Health & Emergency Services

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

GILA COUNTY DIVISION of HEALTH and EMERGENCY SERVICES

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Pertussis Confirmed in Gila County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 19, 2014
Globe, Arizona

Time: 11:00 am

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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June 19, 2014

Gila County has reported a confirmed pertussis case, also known as whooping cough, in the Payson area.

Pertussis is a contagious disease spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others. It is most contagious during the cold-like stage to three weeks after it begins. Pertussis is treated with antibiotics and people may return to normal activities after five days of treatment and are fever-free.

Those who develop signs and symptoms will commonly include:

- Cough may be followed by a “whooping sound” in older infants and preschool children.
- Mild cold-like signs and symptoms, accompanied by little or no fever.
- Coughing, which gets worse within 1-2 weeks and becomes intermittent, and may be followed by vomiting.
- Coughing will include increased production of mucus.

The Gila County Office of Health is advising its residents to stay vigilant. For maximum protection against pertussis, children need five Diphtheria Tetanus and acellular Pertussis or DTaP shots. The first three shots are given to infants at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. After receiving those three doses of DTaP, most infants are protected, but more shots are needed since this protection starts to fade once they become toddlers. Preteens will also need a TDaP, which is a pertussis booster. It is also recommended that pregnant women should receive it during the third trimester.

If a person has been exposed to pertussis by a household member or other close contact, they may be given a preventative course of antibiotics to prevent them from getting sick.

If you suspect that you may have pertussis, been exposed, or have any questions, please contact your primary care physician or Gila County Division of Health & Emergency Services at (800) 304-4452 extension 8811.

Gila County Division of Health & Emergency Services offers pertussis vaccinations. If you would like to receive a vaccination, please call (800) 304-4452 extension 8811 to make an appointment or to hear walk-in appointment hours.