

ADVISORY: Pertussis Cases Confirmed

June 14, 2024

Key points:

- Multiple Pertussis cases confirmed in Peterborough region
- Follow testing recommendations - [Bordetella - Respiratory - PCR | Public Health Ontario](#)
- **Notify Peterborough Public Health IMMEDIATELY** of all individuals who are being tested for pertussis and continue to report suspect and confirmed cases.

Situation:

Peterborough Public Health has been notified of increased pertussis activity in our region. There have been multiple confirmed cases within the region.

Identifying Pertussis:

Pertussis is caused by a bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis* that transmits through direct contact with respiratory secretions of infected persons via droplets. Infants, particularly those unimmunized, are at risk of severe disease or death. Pertussis should be considered in individuals presenting with symptoms compatible with the illness including:

- Paroxysmal cough of any duration **OR**
- Cough ending in vomiting, or associated with apnea **OR**
- Cough with inspiratory “whoop” **OR**
- Any cough illness lasting two weeks or more

It is important to assess the immunization status of all individuals presenting with symptoms. Individuals should follow the [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario June 2022](#). Including immunization at,

- infancy,
- 14 year olds,
- Early adulthood - single Tdap booster during adulthood (usually at 24, then just Td boosters are recommended every 10 years),
- during every pregnancy (ideally between 27-32 weeks).

Testing for Pertussis:

Follow the nasal pharyngeal (NP) or sputum testing recommendations from [Bordetella - Respiratory - PCR | Public Health Ontario](#). We encourage healthcare providers to order a pertussis NP testing kit in advance to have on hand by calling the Ontario Public Health Laboratory at 705-743-6811. Please note that test kits may take a few days to arrive. Should need for urgent testing occur, Peterborough Public Health may have a kit on hand and please reach out to us below. There is a 4-day turnaround time for test results.

Please notify Peterborough Public Health IMMEDIATELY of all individuals who are being tested for pertussis and continue to report suspect and confirmed cases.

Thanks for your continued work to prevent and identify pertussis. For questions or to notify us of potential cases, please contact us at 705-743-1000 ext. 131