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**District Health Department**

*Serving Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer counties.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH) REPORTED**

Several cases of pertussis have been reported in the 5 county, Public Health Solutions District.

Pertussis, also called whooping cough, is a contagious lung infection caused by a type of bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis*. It is spread when infected persons cough or sneeze while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria. Pertussis can cause serious illness especially in young infants who often have not yet been immunized against the illness.

The best protection against pertussis is immunization. We ask that parents check their children's immunization records to be sure they are current on their pertussis immunizations. Children should get 5 doses of DTaP vaccine, one dose at each of the following ages:

- ✓2 months
- ✓4 months
- ✓6 months
- ✓15-18 months
- ✓4-6 years

In addition, it is recommended that people 11 through 64 years of age receive a Tdap shot every 10 years. Adults that will be in contact with or care for infants and pregnant women should get a Tdap booster, even if they have had a Tdap immunization within the past 10 years. Any adolescents who did not get the pertussis vaccine as a preteen should get one dose.

While pertussis vaccines are the most effective tool we have to prevent this disease, no vaccine is 100% effective. If pertussis is circulating in the community, there is a chance that a fully vaccinated person, of any age, can become ill with this very contagious disease. Those who become ill should stay home.

For more information on pertussis or immunization, contact your healthcare provider. If you need information on the nearest public immunization clinic near you, please call Public Health Solutions at 402-826-3880.

**About Public Health Solutions**

Public Health Solutions serves to prevent disease and injury, promote wellness, and protect the personal, community, and environmental health of all people in Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer counties in southeast Nebraska. To learn more, visit [www.phsneb.org](http://www.phsneb.org), or call us at 402-826-3880.

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