

# Memo

**To: Healthcare Providers**

**From: Infectious Diseases Team**

**Date: September 26, 2024**

**Re: Increase in Pertussis Cases in Haldimand Norfolk**



SCAN Me

The Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit (HNHU) would like to make you aware of an increase in Pertussis cases in HNHU and surrounding jurisdictions. HNHU is encouraging all health care providers to consider Pertussis as a differential diagnosis in any individuals presenting with clinically compatible signs and symptoms and complete the appropriate testing.

### **Clinically compatible signs and symptoms:**

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

Clients with signs and symptoms consistent with pertussis should be tested by PCR to confirm the diagnosis. Information regarding laboratory testing can be found on the Public Health Ontario website at [www.publichealthontario.ca](http://www.publichealthontario.ca)

Suspect, probable or confirmed cases should be advised to avoid settings where contact with infants under 12 months, immunocompromised individuals and people in their third trimester of pregnancy is probable until the completion of antibiotic therapy or 21 days post cough onset.

### **Immunization:**

Promoting routine immunization schedule and boosters is advised to prevent progression of this and other vaccine preventable diseases. Health care providers are encouraged to review clients' immunization records to ensure the community is protected with pertussis containing vaccine as per the publicly funded schedule <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-routine-immunization-schedule>

**Reporting:**

Report any suspect and/or confirmed cases including those where a clinical diagnosis is made with no laboratory confirmation to the Health Unit by calling 519-426-6170 or 905-318-6623 ext. 3438 or by fax 519-426-4767

Thank you for your continued diligence in working collaboratively with the health unit.

The Infectious Disease Team

For questions, please contact our Infectious Disease Team at 519-426-6170 ext. 3438 or e-mail us at [idt@hnhss.ca](mailto:idt@hnhss.ca)

For after hours and weekends, please contact on-call at 1-877-298-5888