



Johnson County Government Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Barbara Mitchell, Public Information Officer

barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org

Jennifer Dunlay, Risk Communicator

jennifer.dunlay@jocogov.org

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment

Media Line: (913) 477-8436

Whooping Cough cases on the rise in Johnson County

JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (April 19, 2012) – The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) has received reports of 16 confirmed and probable cases of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) since Jan. 1, 2012.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable lung infection that can affect both children and adults. The disease is marked with a severe, hacking cough followed by a high-pitched intake of breath that sounds like “whoop.”

Patients are most contagious when they have a runny nose, sneezing, cough and low fever. Other symptoms include:

- Cough that persists for 1-2 weeks
- Severe cough with repeated attacks of violent coughing
- Occasional vomiting
- Crowing or inhalation “whoop,” usually characterized by a high-pitch sound

JCDHE is asking physicians to consider diagnosing patients with whooping cough if their patients have a cough that lasts at least two weeks or if patients report having close contact with someone with the disease.

Physicians should report suspected or confirmed cases of whooping cough to JCDHE’s Disease Containment Staff within four hours by calling 913-823-1303 or completing and faxing in the [Kansas Notifiable Disease Form](#) found on JCDHE’s Web site <http://health.jocogov.org>.

(more)

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's Immunization Program offers \$14 Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis) vaccine to more individuals to reduce the risk of transmitting Pertussis to infants.

Kansas residents who are pregnant (>20 weeks gestation), new mothers and one additional adult caregiver of infants less than 1 year of age qualify for the \$14 vaccine regardless of insurance. Kansas residents age 19 or older who are UNINSURED also qualify.

Individuals who qualify can stop by the JCDHE for a Tdap vaccine or call (913) 826-1261 for more information. Both the Olathe (11875 S. Sunset Drive, Ste. 300) and Mission (6000 Lamar Ave., Ste. 140) locations will offer the vaccine until supplies are exhausted. [Click here for the walk-in immunization schedule.](#)

More information is available on JCDHE's website, <http://health.jocogov.org>, or by contacting Barbara Mitchell, Public Information Officer, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment Name at barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org or (913) 477-8436.

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About Johnson County

Nestled in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 544,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. Johnson County offers a vibrant quality of life including nationally recognized schools, libraries and parks where businesses and families choose to locate and call their home. For more information visit the county's website at www.jocogov.org.

