



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Tuscarawas County
Health Department

News Release - For immediate release
04/17/2023

Contact: Amy Kaser, RN, DON
Tuscarawas County Health Department
akaser@tchdnow.org
330-343-5555, ext. 1800

Increase in Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in Tuscarawas County


DOVER— Between February 1, 2023, and April 12, 2023, the communicable disease staff at the Tuscarawas County Health Department has recorded an increase in pertussis (Whooping Cough) cases with 6 confirmed cases and 2 probable cases. Comparatively, there were only 4 confirmed pertussis cases in Tuscarawas County during 2022. Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is a highly contagious disease that anyone, at any age, can contract. It can have serious complications such as apnea (pauses in breathing that can be life-threatening), pneumonia, convulsions, encephalopathy (disease of the brain), and death.



The bacteria that cause Whooping Cough spreads very easily from person to person through the air. Coughing and sneezing sends the bacteria into the air and others breathe it in. Some individuals can be contagious and not even know it. People can spread the disease for up to three (3) weeks from the time that coughing first began. The amount of time an individual is contagious can shorten to five (5) days after the start of an antibiotic. Every dose of antibiotic prescription needs to be completed, even if a person is feeling better. In certain situations, close contacts of pertussis (Whooping Cough) cases may be treated with an antibiotic to prevent infection. The preventive antibiotic should be started as soon as possible within 21 days of exposure to pertussis (Whooping Cough).



“We are attempting to inform and educate the community about the importance of seeking medical assistance for any whooping cough diagnosis and the need to take antibiotics that are known to help treat the disease,” explained Amy Kaser, RN, Director of Nursing at the Tuscarawas County Health Department. “Mainly we want to ensure and encourage everyone in the community to be up to date with the Tdap vaccine which protects against Pertussis (Whooping Cough).”

For more information or to inquire about an outreach vaccine clinic for Tdap, contact Kaser at 330-343-5555, ext. 1800. To schedule an appointment to receive the Tdap vaccine, contact the Tuscarawas County Health Department’s scheduling lines at 330-343-5555, ext. 1810 or ext. 1740, or talk with your medical provider.

###

 897 E. Iron Ave.
Dover, OH 44622

 (330) 343-5555
 (330) 343-1601

 www.tchdnow.org
 director@tchdnow.org

