



April 11, 2017

Dear Parents and School/Child Care Administrators,

Our community is currently experiencing an outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory disease known for uncontrollable, violent coughing which often makes it hard to breathe. Pertussis can affect people of all ages, but can be very serious, even deadly, for babies less than a year old.

The best way to protect babies and children that are not fully vaccinated against pertussis is by building the immunity of the people that surround them, such as child care staff, parents, and other children. This is known as "Community Immunity".

Due to the recent increase in pertussis (whooping cough) cases in Carson City, Douglas, and Lyon Counties, the County Health Officers in these jurisdictions are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDING** all children that are currently enrolled in a school or child care facility to be immunized at the youngest age in the ranges recommended by the nation's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

For example:

It is normally recommended that children should get 5 doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, one dose at each of the following ages:

- 2 Months
- 4 Months
- 6 Months
- 15-18 Months
- 4-6 Years

For the last 2 shots of the series, the ACIP recommendations provide a range. **The County Health Officers are STRONGLY RECOMMENDING 15-18 month olds to have their vaccination at 15 months and for 4-6 year olds to have their vaccination at 4 years of age.**

The DTaP vaccination schedule for this outbreak will now look like:

- 2 Months
- 4 Months
- 6 Months
- 15 Months
- 4 Years

The County Health Officers also **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that all school and child care facility staff that have not been vaccinated against pertussis in the last 10 years, get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Children and school/child care facility staff can get vaccinated by contacting their healthcare provider or by visiting one of the following locations:

Carson City Health & Human Services

900 East Long Street, Carson City, NV, 89706

Walk-in immunizations are available every Thursday from 8:30-11:30am & 1:00-4:30pm.

Call (775) 887-2195 for more information.

Dayton Community Health Clinic

5 Pine Cone Road, Suite 103, Dayton, NV, 89403

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am-5:00pm, Closed for Lunch from 12:00-1:00pm.

Call (775) 246-6211 for more information.

Douglas County Community Health

1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, NV, 89410

Walk-in immunizations are available every Monday from 1:00-4:00pm.

Call (775) 782-9038 for more information.

Fernley Community Health Clinic

555 E. Main Street, Fernley, NV, 89408

Hours: Monday – Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm, Closed for Lunch from 12:30-1:00pm.

Call (775) 575-3363 for more information.

Yerington Community Health Clinic

26 Nevin Way, Yerington, NV, 89447

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

Call (775) 463-6539 for more information.

For questions and/or concerns, please contact the Carson City Health & Human Services (CCHHS) Disease Control and Prevention Division at (775) 887-2190 or cchhsinfo@carson.org.

The Disease Control and Prevention Division at CCHHS oversees disease surveillance and investigations in Carson City, Douglas, and Lyon Counties and is the agency currently investigating the increase of pertussis.
