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## Pertussis Algorithms for Clinical Evaluation and Management of Contacts

To: Health Care Providers, Hospitals, and Ambulatory Care Centers  
From: Patsy Kelso PhD, State Epidemiologist for Infectious Disease

– Please Distribute Widely –

To date this calendar year, there have been 201 confirmed pertussis cases in Vermont, with 68 of those cases occurring from June 1 – August 8.

- Since June 1, cases have been confirmed in Chittenden (23 cases), Addison (12), Bennington (9), Caledonia (8), Rutland (5), Windsor (3), Franklin (3), Washington (2), and Lamoille, Orange, and Orleans counties (1 case each). Many additional cases remain under investigation.
- 3 infants have been hospitalized with confirmed or probable pertussis since June 1.
- No deaths have been reported.

**Requested actions** to protect infants and others at greatest risk of severe disease:

- **Consider** pertussis in the differential diagnosis for patients with respiratory illness.
  - **See the attached algorithms addressing clinical evaluation and management of contacts.**
  - The algorithms are available on the Health Department's website: <http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/pertussis/providers.aspx>.
- **Report suspected and confirmed cases** to the Health Department's Epidemiology Unit 24/7 at 802-863-7240.
- **Test** patients with signs and symptoms consistent with pertussis (paroxysmal cough, whooping, post-tussive vomiting/gagging; apnea or cyanosis in infants).
  - The Health Department Laboratory is performing pertussis PCR testing on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays.
  - For questions about testing or to order specimen collection kits, call the Health Department Laboratory at 802-863-7560.
- **Vaccinate** adolescent (age 11 and older) and adult patients with a single dose of Tdap.
  - For information about ordering vaccine, call the Health Department's Immunization Program at 802-863-7240.