

Columbus Public Health

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Due to the increase in the number of pertussis cases in Franklin County, the purpose of this month's newsletter is to inform about the responsibilities of the Healthcare Providers and Public Health.

Responsibilities of Healthcare Providers

1. Test Patients for pertussis.
 - a. Check pertussis PCR collection kit to ensure the tube with transport medium is not passed the expiration date. Tubes should always be stored in refrigeration.
 - b. Collection kits may be obtained by calling the main laboratory Customer Service area at **2-5350 (option 1)** for inpatients and the Outpatient/Reference Lab at **614-722-5350 or -5477 (option 2)** for clinic and offsite patients.
 - c. Ideally, collect two (one is acceptable) posterior nasopharyngeal (NP) swab specimens (one each via left and right nares) using the **aluminum-shaft, mini-tip, Dacron swabs included in the kit**. NP collections may induce paroxysmal coughing; therefore **ONLY trained, experienced medical personnel should perform NP collections**.
 - d. Place both swabs in the screw-capped tube with transport medium and cut off excess aluminum shaft, leaving the swab in the tube. **Tighten the cap securely. If the transport media is not available, the swab can be transported in a well-sealed, clean dry container.**
 - e. Specimens collected may be transported at room temperature for same-day delivery. If transport requires overnight delivery, specimens should be refrigerated and sent on ice or cold pack.
 - f. Collection Kits can be obtained free of charge from Children's. The testing, however, will be billed to the patient.
2. Treat patient appropriately.
3. Report diagnoses to CDRS.

Responsibilities of Public Health

1. Confirm diagnoses.
2. Call patient/parent and educate about disease. Ensure patient has appropriate medication.
3. Identify contacts and educate about disease. Ensure that contacts receive medication. (In some cases, Public Health will provide medication and/or antibiotics).
4. Monitor incidence for clusters and outbreaks.

DISEASE INCIDENCE

Cases reported in Columbus and Franklin County December 2006

Pertussis: 41	Mumps: 0	Salmonella: 10	Hepatitis A: 0
Rubella: 0	Shigella: 0	Measles: 0	West Nile Virus: 0

Continuing Education Opportunity

Satellite Broadcast ***Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*** 2007

January 25, February 1, 8, & 10 from noon - 4 pm. Tapes of the broadcast will be available through the CPH Resource Center at 645-0266.

Brought to you by the Communicable Disease Reporting System (CDRS)

Report Disease with Ease – 24 hours a day 719-8888 (phone) 719-8890 (fax) cdrs@franklincountyohio.gov (email)

Website: <http://www.cdrsinfo.com>

****Provided to you through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health****