

Health district responds to infant whooping cough case

Tdap clinic approaches

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Logan County Health District staff members were sent out to the Amish community in DeGraff and Quincy last week in response to an 11-month-old's whooping cough diagnosis, Health Commissioner Dr. Boyd Hoddinott reported at Wednesday's board of health meeting.

The child was treated at an urgent care center at a children's hospital and hospitalized. The child was expected to come home last weekend, LCHD nursing director Kay Schroer said.

Other children in the Amish community exhibited symptoms of the highly contagious respiratory tract infection, and they were provided with prescription medications and other advice about the treatment of the illness.

Some of the symptoms of whooping cough, normally known as pertussis, include an uncontrollable, violent coughing that can make it difficult to breathe, along with a runny nose, slight fever and diarrhea. The deep "whooping" sound often heard when the person tries to take a breath is where the whooping cough common name is derived.

Typically, whooping cough can last for up to 12 weeks, but taking the medication can reduce the severity and length of the illness, Dr. Hoddinott said. The health commissioner noted that Logan County usually sees about 10 to 17 cases of the pertussis each year. In rare instances, whooping cough can be deadly, especially for young children.

Young children usually are immunized against the illness, however, the Amish children were not immunized, officials said. A new booster vaccine is now available for older children and adults to help fight pertussis, along with tetanus and diphtheria. This Tdap booster is a new requirement for children entering seventh-grade next school year, Ms. Schroer said. In response to the requirement, the health district offers a Tdap/Td immunization clinic from 3 to 6 p.m. June 17. The cost is \$10. Call Cindy Mabrey with any questions at 592-9040 ext. 6188.

In other matters, Craig Kauffman, environmental health director, noted that the health district's food safety program recently passed its 13-day Ohio Department of Health survey with excellent reviews. "I will develop a list of recommendations for our sanitarians to improve our already pretty good program," Mr. Kauffman said.

The board issued an order to Les Bowman, owner/operator of Indian Hills Manufactured Home Park, 2499 Township Road 55, to correct repeated Ohio Administrative Code violations, including home set and occupied on lot 16 without approval, shed with no sides on lot 24, home on lot 24 has solid waste inside, scrap tire on lot 10, dilapidated home on lot 23, and dead trees on lots 9 and 16, within 30 days.

Members also issued orders to campground owners whose licenses expired May 1: David Gasmire, owner/operator of Welcome Woods Campground, 7547 State Route 366, Russells Point, and Sharon Sabo, owner/operator of Sabo's Lakefront Resort, 8236 State Route 366, to renew their licenses within three business days.

In other action, the board:

- approved the second of three required readings of amendments to Regulation 40, which would require businesses and members of the general public who take medical sharps containers to the health district for disposal to pay a fee of \$4, for the service that had been provided free of charge;
- approved an annual evaluation for Lisa Engle, environmental health employee;
- issued an order to Robert Crockett, who owns a property at 114 New Street, Quincy, to repair or remove an open and dilapidated garage within 30 days;
- approved a \$7,785 contract with Riverside Schools to provide nursing services for the 2010-11 school year;
- approved immunization fee adjustments for the childhood rotavirus vaccine, from \$80 per dose with three doses required, to \$110 per dose with two required doses;
- approved a renewal variance request to Richard Petty, 3090 Township Road 182, to maintain a manufactured home as a second dwelling on a one sewage system for habitation of his mother-in-law;
- approved a variance request for Leann Fry, 31 E. County Road 57, to place a home addition 5 feet from a septic tank;
- approved a variance request for James Wilson of Blue Ash to place a home addition 18 feet from a well at 10860 Seminole Shore, Huntsville; and

- approved a variance request for Richard Maenle, 14963 State Route 235, Lakeview, to operate a sewage system that was installed deeper than the 14-inch depth requirement of the permit.

The next meeting is 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 7.