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TO: Logan County Physicians/Healthcare Providers

FROM: Boyd C. Hoddinott, BSc, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

RE: Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Alert

The Logan County Health District has a confirmed case of pertussis in the Amish community. There are several families with illness. All the necessary precautions have been taken to inform family, friends and close contacts of the patient.

Pertussis is a reportable class B1 disease.

CLINICAL CASE DEFINITION

A cough illness lasting >2 weeks with one of the following: paroxysms of coughing, inspiratory “whoop”, posttussive vomiting, without other apparent cause (as reported by a health professional), or apnea.

TESTING

A throat culture is NOT recommended. The appropriate test is a nasopharyngeal **CULTURE**. Use a sterile polyester tipped flexible wire swab. Insert flexible swab in nose until it reaches the posterior nares. Leave swab in place for 5-15 seconds, rotate and remove. Place swab in BBL Culture Swab Transport tube (discard regular swabs) and send to lab.

PREVENTION and CONTROL

Azithromycin is the recommended antimicrobial treatment and postexposure prophylaxis for pertussis, by age group:

< 1 month	10 mg/kg/day in a single dose for 5 days (only limited safety data)
1-5 months	10 mg/kg/day in a single dose for 5 days
Infant >6 months and children	10 mg/kg in a single dose on day 1 then 5 mg/kg per day (maximum: 500 mg) on days 2-5
Adults	500 mg in a single dose on day 1 then 250 mg per day on days 2-5

Further information about Pertussis is available by contacting the health district.

Visit us on the web at www.loganhealth.org.