

December 27, 2011

Advisory Regarding an Increase in Pertussis in Dane County

Pertussis cases continue to be reported in Dane County residents and in individuals who live outside of Dane County but work or go to school in Dane County (see chart below).

Please consider testing (see Algorithm I below) for pertussis in individuals with a cough illness and any of the following:

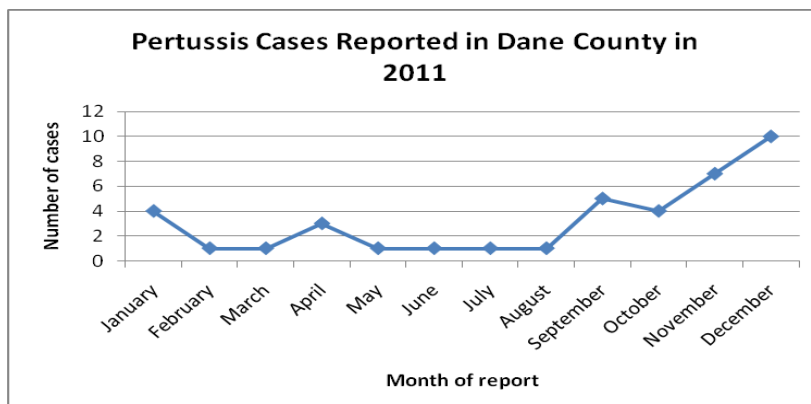
- Paroxysms
- Whoop
- Post-tussive vomiting
- Apnea
- Contact with an individual diagnosed with pertussis

Individuals who are tested for pertussis should be immediately treated (see Algorithm I below) and informed that they should isolate themselves until they've completed five days of treatment. Do not wait for test results to treat and isolate.

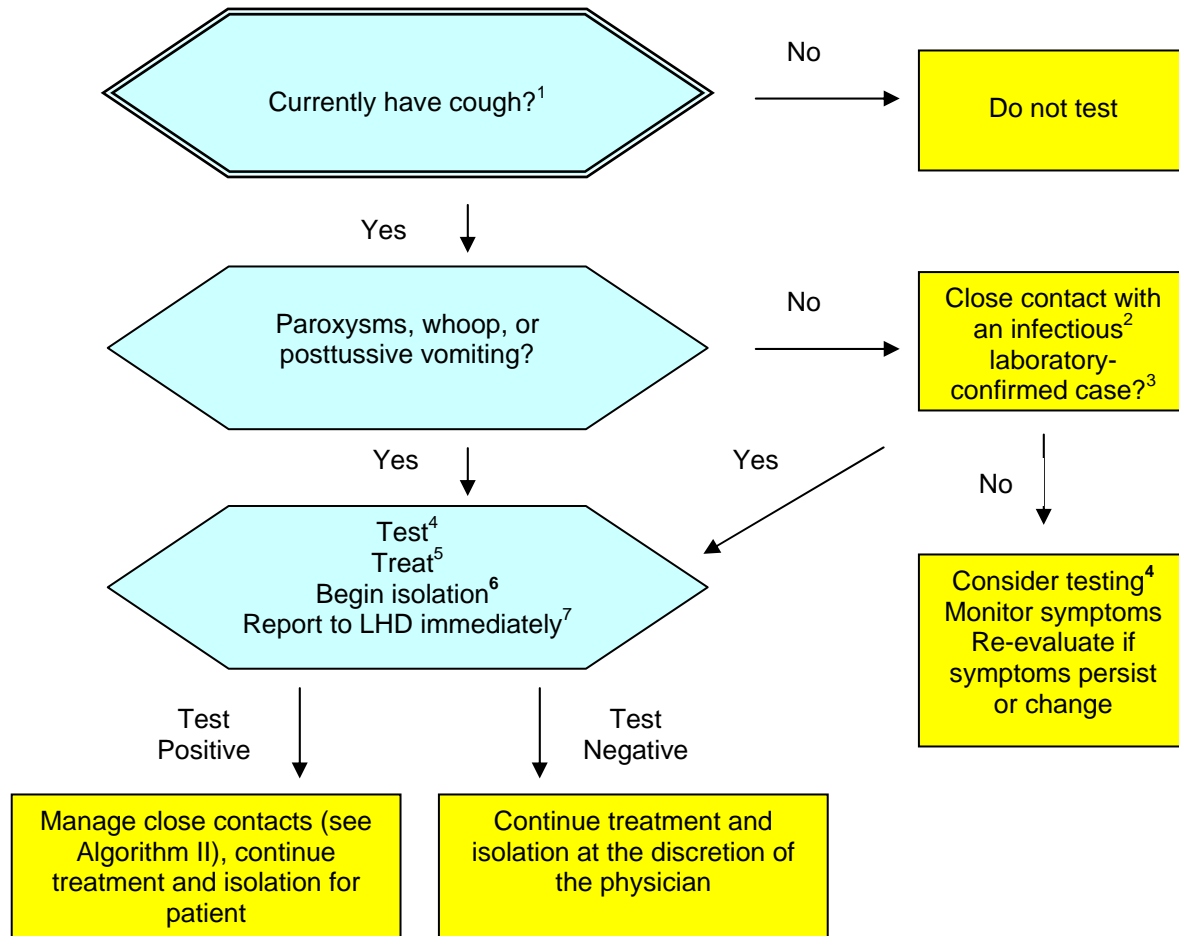
Report suspect cases of pertussis in Dane County residents to the Intake Nurse at Public Health – Madison & Dane County by phone at 608-266-4821 or fax at 608-266-4858. PHMDC will work with suspected pertussis cases to ensure isolation and to notify those who have been possibly exposed as appropriate.

Below are two algorithms from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health for the evaluation of suspect pertussis cases and those who may have had contact with a pertussis case. For more information about pertussis for health professionals from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, go to <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/pertussis.htm>

Thank you for your assistance in helping to prevent the spread of pertussis.



Wisconsin Pertussis Algorithms: I. Clinical Evaluation and Management of Persons in Whom Pertussis is Being Considered



¹Infants aged <1 year may only present with apnea. Proceed to “Test, treat, begin isolation and report to LHD immediately” if pertussis is strongly suspected.

²The infectious period is defined as 1 week before cough onset to 21 days after cough onset if untreated or 5 days after initiation of appropriate antibiotic therapy. Infants aged <1 year with pertussis remain infectious for longer periods (up to 42 days from cough onset) if untreated.

³The person being evaluated must have had illness onset within 6-21 days after this close contact.

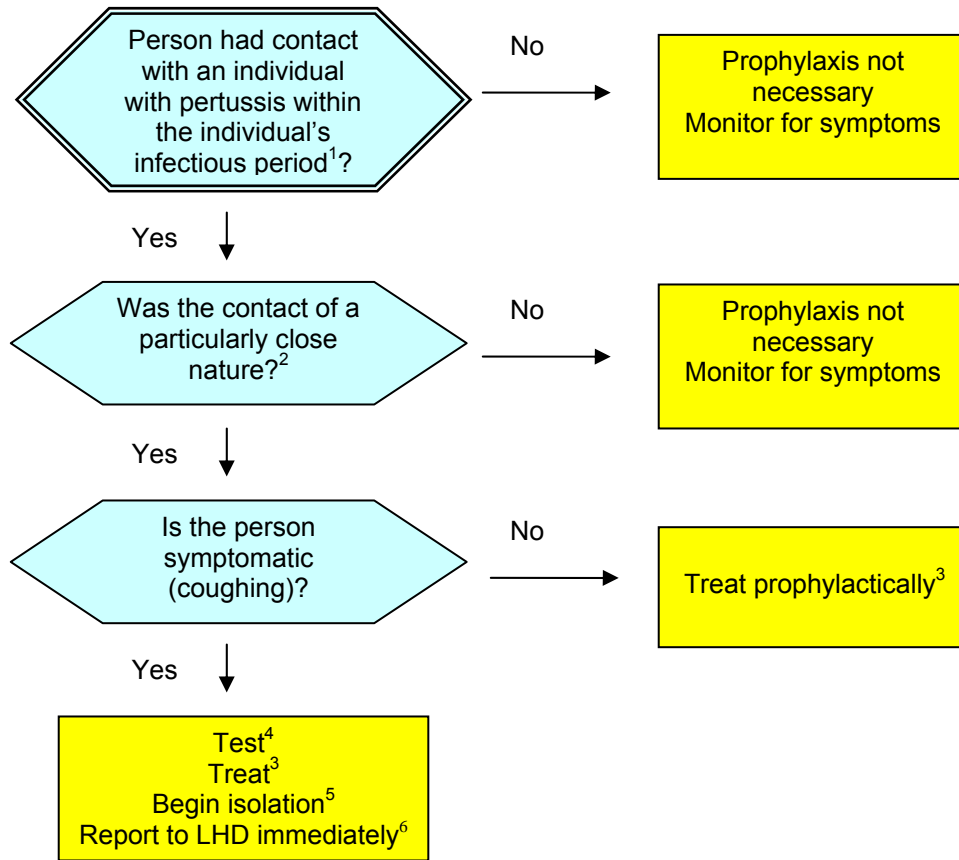
⁴Culture is most successful if performed during the first 14 days following cough onset and polymerase chain reaction (PCR), within the first 21 days. Testing should only be done on symptomatic persons. If feasible, specimens should be collected for both PCR and culture. If specimens for both tests cannot be collected, PCR testing is preferred.

⁵Treat the patient within 21 days of cough onset (or within 42 days of cough onset for infants aged <1 year) with an appropriate antibiotic. A macrolide is the antibiotic of choice for treatment and prophylaxis of pertussis. Treat regardless of vaccination status. Offer prophylaxis to all close contacts prior to receipt of the test result.

⁶Exclude patients from work, school or other public contact until at least 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment have been completed or until 21 days after onset of cough if appropriate antibiotic treatment is not taken.

⁷Your Local Health Department (LHD) will assist with isolation and contact management. Note that pertussis is a Category 1 reportable disease.

Wisconsin Pertussis Algorithms: II. Clinical Guidelines for Management of Contacts of an Individual with Pertussis



¹The infectious period is defined as 1 week before cough onset to 21 days after cough onset if untreated or 5 days after initiation of appropriate antibiotic therapy. Infants aged <1 year with pertussis remain infectious for longer periods (up to 42 days from cough onset) if untreated.

²**Close contact** includes:

- Direct face-to-face contact for a period of time (duration not defined)
- Shared confined space in close proximity for a prolonged period of time, such as ≥1 hour
- Direct contact with respiratory, oral, or nasal secretions (e.g., an explosive cough or sneeze in the face). Note: Droplet precautions apply only if the suspected exposure occurred within a 3-ft radius.
- Contact in a setting with known pertussis transmission (e.g., two or more cases in same classroom or sports team).

³Prophylactically treat the patient with an appropriate antibiotic if within 21 days of last contact with a case. If the person is symptomatic, treat (with an appropriate antibiotic) if within 21 days of cough onset or within 42 days of cough onset for infants aged <1 year. A macrolide is the antibiotic of choice for treatment and prophylaxis of pertussis. Treat regardless of vaccination status.

⁴Culture is most successful if performed during the first 14 days following cough onset and polymerase chain reaction (PCR), within the first 21 days. Testing should only be done on symptomatic persons. If feasible, specimens should be collected for both PCR and culture. If specimens for both tests cannot be collected, PCR testing is preferred.

⁵Exclude patients from work, school or other public contact until at least 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment have been completed or until 21 days after onset of cough if appropriate antibiotic treatment is not taken.

⁶Your Local Health Department (LHD) will assist with isolation and contact management. Note that pertussis is a Category 1 reportable disease.