

26 September 2017

Pertussis Cluster in West Auckland

Important Message for Health Providers - call for vigilance

In the last week ARPHS has received an increase in pertussis notifications in West Auckland including a small cluster in Laingholm and Henderson. There has not been a corresponding sustained rise in pertussis notifications across the whole Auckland region.

We request General Practices are vigilant regarding the following:

1. **Consider pertussis** in patients with paroxysmal cough and especially those children attending local primary schools or early childhood centres.
2. **Take a nasopharyngeal swab** for pertussis PCR (if coughing < 3 weeks and not already linked to another case)
3. **Exclude** cases from school, work, other institution, and social interaction while waiting for the laboratory results.
4. **Notify** ARPHS (09) 6234600 **on suspicion**
5. **Treat** confirmed cases with azithromycin
6. **Identify vulnerable contacts** and provide azithromycin chemoprophylaxis
7. **Discuss** pertussis immunisation with parents and pregnant women. Immunisation offers the best protection from pertussis.

Pertussis is highly infectious and a potentially serious illness especially in the young. Around 70% of infants under one year of age with pertussis require hospitalisation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, please refer to ARPHS website: <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/health-information/communicable-disease/pertussis-whooping-cough> or call us on (09) 6234600

For more immunisation advice call the Immunisation Advisory Centre free on 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863) or visit its website <http://www.immune.org.nz>