



Public Health

Idaho North Central District

Nez Perce County

215 10th Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-3100
Fax (208) 799-0349

Latah County

333 E Palouse River Drive
Moscow, ID 83843
(208) 882-7506
Fax (208) 882-3494

Clearwater County

105 115th Street
Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-7850
Fax (208) 476-7494

Idaho County

903 West Main
Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-2842
Fax (208) 983-2845

Lewis County

132 N Hill Street
P O Box 277
Kamiah, ID 83536
(208) 935-2124
Fax (208) 935-0223

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tara Biesecker, PIO

PHONE: (208) 799-3100

DATE: December 20, 2024

HEADLINE: Respiratory Illness Circulating, Including Pertussis

LEWISTON, IDAHO - Respiratory illnesses including Pertussis are currently circulating. To prevent the spread of illness to others, it is important to stay home when you are ill, unless you are seeking care with your primary care provider. Additionally, remember to use respiratory etiquette; cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, dispose of used tissues, and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly.

If you are displaying symptoms of Pertussis or have been exposed to a case, it is important to reach out to your primary care provider to arrange for testing and treatment.

Pertussis is a communicable disease that is spread through the air from an infected person during coughing, sneezing or talking. Pertussis begins with cold-like symptoms and a cough that becomes progressively worse over 1-2 weeks. Coughing usually happens in long bouts, sometimes followed by a whooping noise. Antibiotics can make the disease milder in those infected and will prevent transmission of the illness to others. Individuals exposed to pertussis should also be given antibiotics to prevent the disease, even if they were vaccinated.

Children should get 5 doses of pertussis containing vaccine Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTap), one dose at each of the following ages: 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months, and 4-6 years of age. Adolescents and adults need protection from pertussis too. Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) is recommended to be given as a one-time booster dose for adolescents ages 11-12. Adults are also recommended to get one dose of Tdap vaccination followed by a booster dose every 10 years. Pregnant women are recommended to receive the Tdap vaccine in each pregnancy, prior to delivery.

Adults seeking to receive a Tdap booster can reach out to a local pharmacy or your primary care provider.

If you are displaying symptoms, please call your health care provider.
For all other questions, please contact Public Health - Idaho North Central District at 208-799-3100.