

# Dutchess County Department of Health

# PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT\*

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Marcus J. Molinaro  
County Executive



Michael C. Caldwell, MD, MPH  
Commissioner of Health

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## ***Pertussis Cases on the Rise Locally: Pertussis Linked to 4 Infant Hospitalizations***

***Monday, August 13, 2012 - 12:00 pm***

*Please Distribute to School Nurses, Day Cares, all Clinical Staff in Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, and Infection Control.*

### **ALERT:**

- Since July 1st, more than 50 cases of pertussis have been reported to the Dutchess County Department of Health (DCDOH). Four infants have been hospitalized in the past three weeks.
- **DCDOH strongly encourages clinicians to consider Pertussis in infants who are presenting with respiratory difficulties.**
- **TREATMENT:** CDC recommends that zithromycin or approved alternate be used to treat persons with confirmed or suspected pertussis. Control guidelines are available at:  
[http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/docs/pertussis\\_outbreak\\_control\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/docs/pertussis_outbreak_control_guidelines.pdf)
  - Prophylaxis: Household contacts and other close contacts should receive 5 days of the zithromax or other recommended alternate antibiotic. Screening asymptomatic contacts is of little value.
  - Isolation: Persons with a confirmed or suspect diagnosis of pertussis should remain out of congregate setting until 5 days of antibiotic therapy have been completed.
- **PREVENTION:** Tdap vaccination is encouraged for pre-natal care, pregnant mothers (20 weeks plus), new mothers, all household members, and any individual who will have contact with newborns, infants, or small children.
- Additional Pertussis advisories are available online at <http://bit.ly/DC-PHAs>
- **Pertussis is a required communicable disease report within three days of diagnosis** to the DCDOH at 845-486-3402.

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\***Health Alert**- conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention; **Health Advisory**- provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action; **Health Update**- provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

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