

NEWS RELEASE

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WHOOPIING COUGH OUTBREAK IN WEST NIPISSING: UPDATE

The Health Unit has been managing a steady increase in the number of individuals ill with symptoms of whooping cough in the Municipality of West Nipissing. As of this morning, nine cases have been confirmed with the disease. The individuals confirmed range in age from 9 years to 45 years. To respond to this situation, the Health Unit has held four immunization clinics in West Nipissing, and has vaccinated 272 individuals.

The best way to protect against whooping cough is by getting immunized. Children who have not received their immunization, or whose immunization is incomplete, are at increased risk of developing the disease. Adults, caregivers, and older children who are around infants and young children should also be immunized.

Whooping cough is spread easily through droplets in the air from coughing or sneezing by an infected person. Wash your hands frequently, cough and sneeze into your sleeve, and stay home if you are ill. The cough is most contagious during the first 2 weeks. Please contact your health care provider if you or your child develops signs of whooping cough.

For questions regarding the whooping cough vaccine, please call the Health Unit at 705-474-1400 extension 2252, or 1-800-563-2808.

Quote

“There is the potential for this outbreak to spread across the Nipissing and Parry Sound Districts. Whooping cough may be very severe in babies and young kids, especially if they are not immunized or their immunization is incomplete. Should the outbreak expand to North Bay and other regions in the coming weeks, the Health Unit is prepared to respond.”

Dr. Jim Chirico
Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer

Quick Facts

- Whooping cough is known for uncontrollable, violent coughing and may end in gagging, vomiting, or trouble breathing. Sometimes, after a coughing attack, the child may give a loud “whoop” when breathing in, which is why the infection has been called “whooping cough”.
- Anyone can get pertussis, but it is most serious for children under a year old and pregnant women in their third trimester.
- For more information, please refer to the Health Unit’s whooping cough [fact](#) sheet ([French Version](#)), the [FAQ](#), or learn more at myhealthunit.ca.

Media Inquiries

John Mitchell, Acting Communications Coordinator

P: 705-474-1400, ext.2221 or 1-800-563-2808

E: communications@nbpsdhu.ca

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