



Orange County

**ATTENTION**

EDWARD A. DIANA  
County Executive

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

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Commissioner of Health

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**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN AND AMBULATORY CARE STAFF.**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #2**

#### **Pertussis and New Tdap Recommendations**

**ALREADY** we have 25 new **confirmed** cases of whooping cough (pertussis) in Orange County since the turn of the year. **Two** Orange County infants have been hospitalized this year.

A major risk for infants is a family member with undiagnosed pertussis, so please consider a diagnosis of pertussis prior to the initiation of antibiotic treatment. Testing should be done on nasopharyngeal specimens obtained by using Calgiswabs, not cotton swabs. Acceptable diagnostic methods for pertussis include polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and culture. (You can order PCR kits from your lab so you have them ready in the office).

#### **NEW RECOMMENDATION:**

On February 22, 2012, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted in favor of immunizing adults aged 65 years or older with Tdap on a routine basis. With this vote by ACIP, the recommendation for Tdap vaccination becomes universal for all adolescents and adults. ACIP reached its decision after considering the rebound that pertussis has made in the United States during the last 30 years.

#### **Per the CDC:**

The easiest thing for adults to do is get Tdap instead of their next regular tetanus booster-that Td shot that they were supposed to get every 10 years. The dose of Tdap can be given earlier than the 10-year mark, so it is a good idea for adults to talk to a healthcare provider about what is best for their specific situation.

Please call the Nursing Division at (845) 291-2330 if you have further questions.