

## Visit to GP



### Clinical Assessment – consider Pertussis when:

- Mild, upper respiratory tract symptoms – catarhal stage followed by:
- Cough, usually paroxysms of cough:
  - characteristic whoop in 50% of paediatric cases and up to 20% of adult cases
  - commonly followed by vomiting / apnoea.
- No other explanation for cough apparent / Cough lasting more than 2 weeks.
- Fever is absent or minimal.

#### Differential diagnosis:

- Asthma
- Post viral cough
- Croup and variants

Other factors which should increase index of concern and lower treatment threshold:

- **Contact history** e.g. school, pre-school, playmates, friends, relatives with above symptoms.
- **Unimmunised or not fully immunised.**
- **Increased community risk** if individual is midwife, early childhood worker, teacher or parent who comes into contact with children under the age of 1 year.
- **Medically compromised** e.g. all less than 1 year old, ex-premature baby, congenital disease, immunosuppressed, chronic illness.

#### Case Notification:

##### Phone

0800 221 555 and select;  
option 6 (bus hrs)  
option 7 (aft hrs)

##### Fax

0800 66 89 34

##### Email

[toiteorasupport@bopdphb.govt.nz](mailto:toiteorasupport@bopdphb.govt.nz)

##### On-call

##### Medical Officer of Health

07 579 8000 (Tauranga  
Hospital)

##### Infectious Disease updates

[www.toiteorapublichealth.govt.nz](http://www.toiteorapublichealth.govt.nz)

### If Pertussis is suspected:

- **Investigations:** Nasopharyngeal swab for culture (Bordetella transport medium) is most useful in first 2 – 3 weeks. [Nasopharyngeal swab for PCR (dry swab, no transport medium) may also be done but is more expensive]. Serology may be more useful test if more than 3 - 4 weeks of symptoms. Preferably do a swab test and serology but proceed on clinical diagnosis.
- **Commence treatment:** 14 days Erythromycin if within 3 weeks of onset of cough.
- **Exclude case** from work, school, or pre-school (for 5 days after treatment started, or for 3 weeks from onset of cough if not treated).
- **Offer Vaccination** to family contacts if unvaccinated or incomplete.
- **Offer Prophylactic Treatment** for household contacts (Erythromycin for 7 days) if there is a child under 1 in the house other than the index case.
- **Notify Public Health** Fax: 0800 66 89 34 Phone: 0800 221 555 (Option 6)

### Public Health will:

- 1) Review immunisation status of case.
- 2) Review case management.
- 3) Trace contacts:
  - Check immunisation status,
  - If indicated, refer any other contacts to GP for antibiotics.
- 4) Collect data for national statistics.
- 5) If relevant, follow-up with schools, playgroups, ECCs etc.