



To: Lake County Primary Care Physicians and Schools
From: Communicable Disease Program
Date: November 16, 2011
Re: 2011 Pertussis Update

Lake County is experiencing an increase in reported cases of Pertussis this school year. Our bordering counties of Cook and McHenry have also reported a greater than usual number of cases. So far, there have been 91 cases confirmed this year compared with a total of 89 cases for all of 2010 in Lake County; 31 having occurred since school resumed this fall. Cases are occurring in multiple communities throughout Lake County and 2/3rds of cases (61) are in school children between the ages of 5 and 14. Almost all but 2 children were fully vaccinated.

The Communicable Disease program is requesting health care providers to practice heightened suspicion for Pertussis. This includes fully vaccinated primary and middle school aged children who present with a cough illness with minimal or absent fever. The cough can often be mild but persistent and those patients need to be tested by nasopharyngeal swab by PCR. Those suspected for Pertussis should be treated with the appropriate antibiotic and KEPT HOME for a minimum of 5 days or until a diagnosis of pertussis is ruled out by lab testing.

Also, we would like to forward the following latest information from the Illinois Department of Public Health. If you have any question please feel free to contact us, at (847) 377-8130.

Thank you.

Attachment