



Community Medicine Newsletter

Pertussis increasing in Vancouver Coastal Health Free Adacel™ (Tdap) vaccine now available for more select patients

We have seen an increase in pertussis activity in Vancouver Coastal Health since January 2012. Thirty-six confirmed cases have been reported from schools, workplaces, and the community as of March 22nd. There are likely more cases remaining undiagnosed and unreported. Cases range in age from 1 month to 68 years. Many are adults, or youth who have not yet received their grade 9 Adacel™ booster. A quarter of cases are among Aboriginal people. Cases have been reported from all geographic areas. As well, the pertussis outbreak in Fraser Health continues with 160 cases reported as of March 16.

More patients eligible for free Adacel™ vaccine in VCH:

- All pregnant women and their partners (give prenatally if possible, or post-partum before mothers leave hospital)
- Everyone in contact with children ≤18 months of age

Adacel™ remains free for previously eligible groups:

- All family physicians, paediatricians, obstetricians and their staff
- All Aboriginal people, both on and off reserve

Please offer free Adacel™ vaccine to eligible individuals who have not had a vaccine containing pertussis in the previous five years. You may order Adacel™ from your customary VCH office.

Since pertussis can be severe, even fatal, in infants, it is very important that infants receive their 2, 4 and 6 month immunizations on time.

Other information about diagnosing, treating and preventing pertussis:

- If you suspect pertussis, as well as offering antibiotic treatment, please also collect a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab.
- You can order pertussis swab kits (with Amies charcoal transport media) by faxing the attached requisition to BC CDC at **604-707-2606**. It will take a couple of days for shipping and delivery. If you have no pertussis kits, a wire cotton swab with charcoal media will do for pertussis specimen collection.
- **Report all suspect pertussis cases to VCH Communicable Disease Control (604-675-3900)** so we can follow-up on any high risk contacts who should receive antibiotic prophylaxis, i.e. pregnant women in the 3rd trimester, babies under one year of age, and those who live with them or who share a group/family daycare.
- **Those with pertussis should stay home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics.** Without antibiotics, patients are infectious until 3 weeks after the onset of cough.
- **More information** for patients and professionals can be found at. <http://bit.ly/GNEZAL>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brian O'Connor'.

Brian A. O'Connor, MD, MHSc
Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health, North Shore

DOCTOR/CLINIC/FACILITY NAME (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)	DATE
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SHIPPING ADDRESS	CITY	POSTAL CODE
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NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	PHONE NUMBER
NOTE: A COMPLETE KIT CONSISTS OF (1) SAMPLE CONTAINER, (1) SAMPLE BAG & (1) REQUISITION UNLESS SPECIFIED		

SAMPLE CONTAINERS		COMPLETE KIT	REQUISITIONS ONLY	
		QUANTITY	CODE	QUANTITY
BLOOD TUBE	BLOOD PARASITES: (Malaria) Smears to be submitted in addition to blood in EDTA (purple) vacutainer tube		PARA	
	HEPATITIS C PCR: Specimen to be submitted in EDTA (purple) vacutainer tube		VI	
	SST (GOLD TOP) TUBE FOR SEROLOGY SCREENING: Hepatitis, HIV, Prenatal, Rubella, Helicobacter pylori, Syphilis, Virus Serology		SER	
	ZOOONOTIC DISEASES & EMERGING PATHOGENS: ASOT, AntiDNase B, Brucella, Borrelia, Toxoplasma, Tularemia, Parasitic Serology, Bartonella, Cryptococcus, Referred Bacterial, Fungal & Parasitic Testing, Arboviruses (West Nile virus), Hanta virus, Rickettsia, Ehrlichia/Anaplasma, Leptospira, Referred Zoonotic Testing.		ZEP	
FECES VIALS	ENTERIC PATHOGENS		BAM	
	VIROLOGY: Adenovirus & Rotovirus EIA		VI	
	PARASITOLOGY: Ova & Parasites (SAF vial)		PARA	
PADDLE	PINWORM		PARA	
SLIDES	MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION: Gonorrhea, Trichomonas, Bacterial Vaginosis & Yeast		BAM	
	SYPHILIS: Dark Field/Direct Fluorescent Antibody		ZEP	
SWABS	VIRUS ISOLATION SWAB: Virus Culture		VI	
	RESPIRATORY VIRUS (Copan swabs + Viral Transport media): Respiratory Virus Testing		VI	
	INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESS OUTBREAK KIT (6 Swabs/Kit) FOR FACILITY TESTING ONLY		ILI FORM	
	PLASTIC COTTON SWAB (with Amies Charcoal Transport media): Culture for bacterial pathogens excluding Mycobacterium spp. & Bordetella pertussis		BAM	
	WIRE COTTON SWAB (with Amies Charcoal Transport media): Culture of urethral & eye specimens for N. gonorrhoeae		BAM	
	PERTUSSIS KIT (with Amies Charcoal Transport media): Culture and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for Bordetella		BAM	
	Chlamydia trachomatis (Dry swab) from eye samples: DFA		BAM	
	Chlamydia trachomatis AND N. gonorrhoeae SWAB for nucleic acid testing (NAT)		BAM	
VIALS & JARS	ZOOONOTIC DISEASES & EMERGING PATHOGENS: Helicobacter pylori Stool Antigen		ZEP	
	TISSUE PARASITES: sterile vial		PARA	
	TUBERCULOSIS PLASTIC VIAL: Sputum, urine & other body fluids (all Mycobacteria)		TB	
	TUBERCULOSIS TREATED GLASS VIAL: Stomach washings (all Mycobacteria)		TB	
	FOOD MICROBIOLOGY JAR: For Food Quality Sample		FQ	
	FOOD MICROBIOLOGY JAR: For Food Poisoning Sample		FP	
	GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE OUTBREAK KIT (6 vials for feces, 2 vials for vomitus)		GIOB	
	TREATED ICE GLASS JAR: Water Bacteriology		WB	
BOTTLES	TREATED PLASTIC BOTTLES: Water Bacteriology		WB	
REQUISITIONS WITH NO ASSOCIATED KITS	BACTERIOLOGY & MYCOLOGY - ISOLATES FOR IDENTIFICATION		BAM	
	PARASITOLOGY - Ticks for identification		PARA	
	- Arthropods, Worms, Protozoa for identification		PARA	
	ZOOONOTIC DISEASES & EMERGING PATHOGENS - Non-blood (CSF for syphilis, biopsy, genital swabs)		ZEP	
BLOOD TUBES ONLY	BIOHAZARD BAGS	NOTE: PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.phsa.ca/bccdcpublichealthlab FOR INFORMATION ON COLLECTION PROCEDURES		
		PLACE ADDITIONAL REQUESTS IN THIS AREA		

ORDERING INFORMATION:

What should I order?

Please consult the Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory "Guide to Programs and Services" on our site at www.phsa.ca/bccdcpublichealthlab for instructions on what container to use and how to collect and submit the sample.

How do I order?

Please fax request using the "Sample Container Order Form"

- Fax to (604) 707-2606
- Order in single units, NOT in cases, boxes, packs or pads.

How many should I order?

When ordering please keep in mind the following:

- A lot of sample containers have components that have a short shelf-life and therefore have expiry dates. Please order according to your needs instead of "stock-piling".

How will I receive my order?

Orders will be processed and mailed using **Canada Post/BC Mail** and should arrive in 1-2 weeks

- If you prefer a courier service, please indicate your courier account number as well as the courier phone number in the additional requests area on the bottom of the order form. This service will not be provided unless both of the above are provided.