The development of pertussis vaccine for children in the 1940’s caused a dramatic drop in cases. In the past 25 years, however, the rates of pertussis have risen again. And again, the development of a new vaccine can step in to stop the spread.

In 2005, the US had approximately 25,600 reported cases of pertussis, or whooping cough, compared to 1,000 in 1980. The true number of cases is probably much higher. This increase is due in part to the success of eliminating childhood pertussis. Adolescents and adults who have been immunized are no longer getting “boosted” by exposure to pertussis in younger children. Both vaccine and disease-induced immunity wane after about 5-10 years, so a booster is needed to keep pertussis from infecting adolescents and adults.

In Summer 2005, the FDA approved two tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccines formulated for adolescents and adults (Tdap). Adacel and Boostrix are now available for use. Tdap is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (Boostrix) and Sanofi Pasteur (Adacel). Both protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. Boostrix is licensed for use in children and adolescents 10-18 years of age, and Adacel is licensed for adolescents and adults 11-64 years of age. Both are recommended as a one-time booster in place of Td.

To raise awareness about the rise in pertussis cases and its prevention through the use of Tdap, the New Mexico Immunization Coalition (NMIC), the New Mexico Department of Health and the Clinical Prevention Initiative (a collaboration of the NM Medical Society and the NM Department of Health) have launched a campaign called “Whip the Whoop.” The vision of the campaign is to protect our communities by curtailing the spread of pertussis through immunization.

The reasons to receive the immunization are clear. Pertussis is contagious from the start of symptoms to several weeks after coughing begins. Often symptoms are not recognized until a person has been coughing for several weeks. This is particularly a concern because parents who are unaware...
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Villa Therese Catholic Clinic  
Voices for Children  
Wyeth Vaccines

Newborns usually do not have maternal antibodies against pertussis. Immunization with DTaP begins at 2 months, but babies are not fully protected for their first year, when they have received the full four doses of DTaP. This leaves very young infants vulnerable to infection. Unfortunately, very young infants who contract pertussis often must be hospitalized and sometimes die (approximately 63% of infants < 6 months with pertussis require hospitalization, with a mean length of stay of 6 days\textsuperscript{1}). Over 90% of pertussis deaths are in infants aged < 4 months of age. There are 20-30 infant deaths from pertussis each year in the US.\textsuperscript{2}

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has issued

\textit{Tdap helps Whip the Whoop
continued on next page}
Influenza

Flu season is officially underway in New Mexico. We have recently seen the first infant case of flu in Santa Fe. All states bordering New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma and Utah, have also reported cases of influenza.

There are also some special recommendations for certain high priority groups:

- Persons needing wound prophylaxis in emergency rooms should receive Tdap instead of Td, unless they have already received Tdap or it has been <5 years since their last Td.

The New Mexico Department of Health recommends vaccination for the following groups:

- Persons at high risk for influenza-related complications and severe disease, including
  - children aged 6–59 months,
  - pregnant women,
  - persons aged ≥50 years,
  - persons of any age with certain chronic medical conditions; and
  - Persons who live with or care for persons at high risk, including household contacts who have frequent contact with persons at high risk and who can transmit influenza to those persons at high risk and healthcare workers.

The Department of Health also makes the following recommendations to help minimize the spread of flu:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If possible, stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, preferably using a tissue, then dispose of the tissue immediately.
- Wash your and your children’s hands frequently, especially if sneezing and coughing and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Practice good health habits such as getting plenty of sleep, being physically active, eating nutritious food and drinking plenty of fluids.

For information about scheduled flu-shot clinics, call Nurse Advice New Mexico toll-free at 1-877-725-2552 or consult the New Mexico Influenza Vaccine Consortium’s website, http://www.nmmra.org/nmivc/cliniclist.php

(Footnotes)
2 CDC Pertussis Surveillance Report – 10/4/06
Calendar of upcoming events

**January**

1/12  NMIC Strategic Planning Meeting
1/25  *Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*
satellite broadcast/webcast series one of four, UNMHSC,
10am to 2pm

**February**

2/1   *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*
satellite broadcast/webcast series two of four, UNMHSC,
10am to 2pm
2/8   *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*
satellite broadcast/webcast series three of four, UNMHSC,
10am to 2pm
2/15  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30
2/15  *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*
satellite broadcast/webcast series last of four, UNMHSC,
10am to 2pm

**March**

3/5-8  National Immunization Conference, Kansas City
3/15  NMIC Steering Committee meeting, 2:30-4:30

NM Immunization Coalition News is published quarterly. Please contact Maggie June at 505-272-3032 or via email at mjune@salud.unm.edu if you have any questions or have an item to submit for the newsletter.