



Kingman County Health Department

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Pertussis persists in Kingman County

The Kingman County Health Department received another confirmed case of pertussis (whooping cough) in the county on Friday, July 24. This most recent case involves a vaccinated 18-month-old child who attends a daycare facility in another county.

This is the first confirmed pertussis case in the county since June 10. Kingman County now has a total of six confirmed pertussis cases this year since March 27.

The Health Department wants to remind the community that pertussis remains a significant public health concern. Several other counties in the region continue to investigate confirmed pertussis illnesses, including an ongoing outbreak of more than 40 confirmed cases in neighboring Reno County.

Pertussis is a highly-contagious infection that usually starts with mild, cold-like symptoms, including a cough that worsens over time. Anyone having a cough lasting for two weeks or longer is strongly encouraged to contact a healthcare provider for further evaluation.

Kingman County Health Department officials are aware that several area residents diagnosed with pertussis had been vaccinated but continue to stress immunization as the most effective disease protection. Immunity from pertussis vaccination does decrease over time, so receiving booster vaccines on time is essential in preventing illness. Infants need four pertussis vaccines by age 2, followed by a booster immunization at age 4 before starting school. Another vaccine is needed at 11-12 years of age. Any adult who is has not been vaccinated or is unsure of vaccination status should also receive a pertussis vaccination, regardless of age.

Kingman County Health Department nurses are available to help people update their immunizations. Call the department at 620-532-2221 for more information.

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