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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WHOOPING COUGH CASES STILL REPORTED  
IN OCEAN COUNTY -  
OCEAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO OFFER  
WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATIONS**

Ocean County Freeholder Director Gerry P. Little, Liaison to the Ocean County Board of Health, said the Ocean County Health Department (OCHD) continues to set up Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccination clinics at several of the OCHD sites throughout Ocean County. The OCHD is seeing an elevated number of cases of pertussis (also known as whooping cough). Vaccination sites include OCHD's Main Site at 175 Sunset Avenue, Toms River, the Southern Clinic Site at 333 Haywood Road, Manahawkin, in the Stafford Business Park off exit 63 on the Garden State Parkway South, and Ocean County Health Department Northern Site at 1771 Madison Avenue, Lakewood.

“We have once again received a report of another case of whooping cough in an infant from Ocean County. We continue to see cases and the OCHD continues to stress the importance of the Tdap vaccination against whooping cough. Many of the infants and children who have confirmed cases of whooping cough have not been fully immunized against the disease. It is important that the adolescents and adults that are with infants and children are vaccinated against whooping cough. The Tdap vaccine is a combination of three vaccines that protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis, said Daniel E. Regenye, OCHD Public Health Coordinator.” He added, “The clinics will give the opportunity for residents to update their vaccination status for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis.”

Although children are vaccinated against whooping cough, immunity to this disease fades and therefore, whooping cough is still common in teenagers and adults. Every year, as many as 1 million teenagers and adults in the United States are infected with whooping cough. Regenye continued, “Babies typically catch whooping cough from adolescents or adults.” A baby's windpipe is much smaller than that of older children and adults; therefore, babies are much more likely to die from whooping cough. By offering the Tdap vaccine to those over the age of 10 years, it will allow adolescents and adults to be protected against the disease, thereby reducing the chance that babies will be infected with the whooping cough bacterium.

The following are recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices regarding the Tdap vaccine for adults are:

- All adults, including those over the age of 65, should receive a Td (tetanus/diphtheria) booster every 10 years.

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- Adults under the age of 65, who have never received a Tdap, should receive this for their next booster dose.
- All adults, including those over the age of 65, who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant less than 12 months of age and who have not received the Tdap booster vaccine, should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis and reduce the likelihood of transmission.
- Adults over the age of 65 may also receive one dose of Tdap instead of Td if they have not previously received this vaccine.
- Any adult who wants to be protected from pertussis should receive this booster.
- New mothers who have never received a Tdap vaccine should get a dose as soon as possible after delivery.

The vaccination is being offered free of charge to those who qualify, otherwise a fee of \$20.00 will be charged.

To find out vaccination clinic hours and sites, please visit our website at [www.ochd.org](http://www.ochd.org) or call with questions or for information on Tdap at 732-341-9700, ext. 7515.

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