

# Pertussis Antibiotic Prophylaxis Recommendations

**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019

**To:** Central Zone Prescribers: Family, Emergency, Pediatric, and U of A Family Medicine Resident Physicians; Prescribing Pharmacists; and Nurse Practitioners

**Cc:** Communicable Disease Control (CDC); Public Health Nursing (PHN); Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

**From:** Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health – Central Zone

**Subject:** Antibiotic Prophylaxis Recommendations for Asymptomatic Household Members of Pertussis Cases

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**Please note that Alberta Health recently recommended that *household members of pertussis cases should receive antibiotic prophylaxis.*** The two other groups of other asymptomatic pertussis case contacts recommended to receive antibiotic prophylaxis are those who are *vulnerable* (infants and women in the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of pregnancy) and those who are *high-risk* (live in/attend/work at a setting where vulnerable persons are present on a regular basis). As part of public health follow-up of cases, Communicable Disease Control (CDC) will continue to direct asymptomatic contacts requiring prophylaxis to you for prescriptions.

*Household, vulnerable, and high-risk* contacts with cough which lasts 2 or more weeks, or is paroxysmal, or which ends in vomiting/inspiratory whoop/apnea meet the definition of a confirmed case. They should be treated and notified to CDC (ph: 403-356-6420). Those with cold-like symptoms potentially compatible with early infection will receive recommendations from CDC on a case-by-case basis about the need for testing and antibiotics.

Further information on the management of pertussis cases and contacts is available at the Alberta Health Notifiable Diseases web page <http://www.health.alberta.ca/professionals/notifiable-diseases-guide.html>. Questions can be directed to CDC.

Your attention and assistance are appreciated.