

infection**connection**

A publication of the LDCHD Epidemiology program

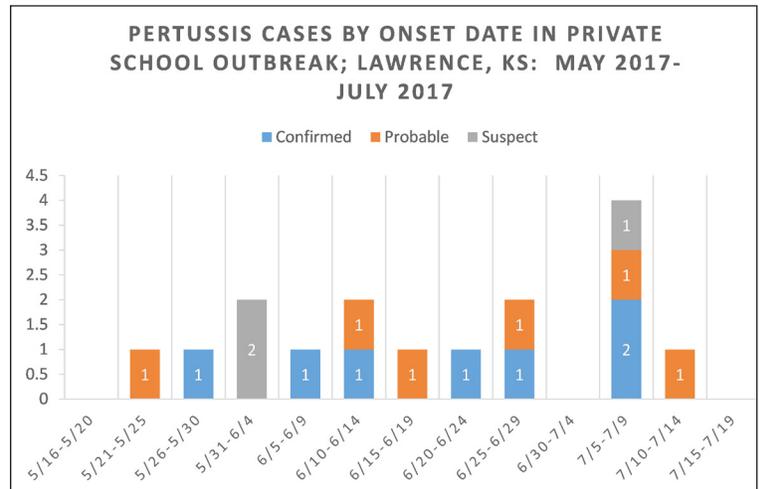
LDCHD investigates pertussis outbreak

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department recently completed an investigation of a pertussis outbreak associated with a private school in Lawrence.

The outbreak started during the last few weeks of the 2016-2017 school year. Following the onset of the index case at the end of May 2017, the outbreak expanded to infect classmates, family members and teachers. As of Aug. 18, none of the identified patients are infectious, and all discovered contacts have been monitored to ensure they are not symptomatic. The outbreak is set to officially expire prior to the start of the new school year.

There were a total of 16 cases associated with the outbreak; seven were confirmed cases, six were probable cases and three were suspect cases. All identified cases had either a direct or indirect connection to the private school. Of the 16 identified cases, half were unvaccinated, while another four were only partially vaccinated. Only 25 percent of the cases were up-to-date on pertussis-containing vaccinations, although three of those four cases were under age for the full vaccination series. The median age of identified cases was 11 years old.

If you suspect a case of pertussis, it is recommended to treat the patient with a macrolide antibiotic, such as azithromycin. It is also



recommended to provide prophylaxis to all household contacts and any identified high risk contacts, such as pregnant women, infants, or immunocompromised individuals. Suspicion of pertussis based on clinical symptoms is sufficient cause to report the case to the Health Department. Laboratory confirmation is not required to report the case.

CDC releases advisory about rise in cyclosporiasis cases

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released a Health Advisory about increased cases of cyclosporiasis, which is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*.

Health care providers should suspect cyclospora infection in patients with prolonged or remitting-relapsing diarrheal illness. Untreated, the infection

may last for a month or longer and a remitting-relapsing course can occur. The recommended treatment is trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (TMP/SMX); alternative treatments have not been identified. Symptomatic care is recommend for patients with an intolerance to TMP/SMX.

Laboratory testing for cyclosporiasis is not routinely done in the U.S. Providers must

specifically order testing for *Cyclospora cayetanensis* through ova and parasite examination, by molecular methods, or by a gastrointestinal pathogen panel test.

Cyclosporiasis is a reportable disease. All cases of cyclospora infection should be reported to the Health Department or the KDHE epidemiology hotline at 1-877-427-7317.

Douglas County Disease Report

Disease category	Disease name	May	June	July	Total
Enteric	Campylobacteriosis	2	4	2	8
	Giardia	0	0	1	1
	Shigella	1	0	0	1
	STEC	0	0	1	1
General	Hepatitis B, chronic	1	2	1	4
	Hepatitis B, pregnancy	0	1	0	1
	Hepatitis C	5	7	8	20
	Legionellosis	0	1	0	1
	Strep Pneumo, Invasive	1	0	1	2
	Strep A, Invasive	1	0	1	2
Vaccine preventable	Pertussis	0	0	16	16
	Varicella	2	0	0	2
	Mumps	1	1	0	2
Vector	Ehrlichiosis	2	0	2	4
	Lyme	1	1	0	2
	RMSF	1	2	1	4
STDs (tested at HD only)	Chlamydia	15	11	16	42
	Gonorrhea	4	5	9	18
	Syphilis	3	4	2	9

This report includes the number of cases investigated by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Case classifications include: confirmed, probable and suspect.

Providers urged to attend Community Health Forums

Findings from the Douglas County Community Health Assessment will be presented at three upcoming forums. Douglas County health care providers are urged to attend the forums to provide input on the results and to suggest next steps in the process, which will involve creation of a Community Health Improvement Plan. The plan will be used as a guiding document for community leaders and policymakers.

Forum dates are:

- **Tuesday, Aug. 22** — 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Community Health Facility, 200 Maine St., Lawrence.
- **Wednesday, Aug. 23** — 6:30-8:30 p.m., Eudora Community Recreation Center, 1630 Elm St., Eudora.
- **Thursday, Aug. 24** — 5-7 p.m., Lawrence Public Library auditorium, 707 Vermont St., Lawrence.

The forums are free and open to the public. Food will be provided.

Lawrence Memorial Hospital President and CEO Russ Johnson said, “LMH is strongly committed to our purpose of being ‘A Partner for Lifelong Health.’ A collaborative approach is essential, and it begins with conversations and feedback.”

The Community Health Assessment was developed to specifically include residents typically underrepresented. The assessment includes: a survey, newly-analyzed data and a PhotoVoice project where area youth used photography to identify health concerns and strengths.

Health Department receives increase in calls related to bats

The Health Department has received an uptick in inquiries related to recommendations for rabies prophylaxis and immunoglobulin because of exposure to bats. The Health Department will only make recommendations for treatment; the final decision rests with the patient’s physician. Here are some tips for when to recommend prophylactic treatment for your patients:

- **Bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes** — Check the patient’s exposure to the animal. If the animal is available for testing, recommend testing for rabies at K-State Rabies Laboratory. If the animal is unavailable for testing, assume animal was rabid and recommend prophylaxis. (No direct exposure is required when a bat is found in the home.)

- **Dogs, cats, ferrets** — If animal is available for a 10-

day observation and survives observation, prophylaxis is not recommended. If animal is unavailable for observation, assume animal was rabid and recommend prophylaxis.

- **Livestock** — Unless the animal is exhibiting signs of rabies, prophylaxis is not recommended.

- **Small rodents (squirrels, mice, gerbils)** — Unless there is a special circumstance to suggest the animal is rabid, prophylaxis is not recommended.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) is available in the Emergency Department of Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Be sure to check on patient’s insurance coverage first as the treatment can be quite expensive.