

MONTHLY MISSIVES BREAKING NEWS PERTUSSIS CASES ON THE RISE

22 MARCH 2024

QUEZON CITY DECLARES OUTBREAK OF PERTUSSIS

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte announced Thursday, March 21, 2024, an outbreak of pertussis as the number of reported cases hit 23, versus January 2024 where no cases were reported.¹

This comes as the Department of Health also reported 453 cases in the first 20 weeks of 2024, a 95% increase versus the reported cases in 2023.¹

This news comes as Iloilo reported 2 deaths of infants from pertussis in February 2024, where majority of their cases are in children 12 months and below and are undervaccinated.² Cordillera province likewise reported a sharp rise in cases³, while two districts in Iloilo, Jaro and Molo, are poised to declare outbreaks as well⁴



Photo for illustrative purposes only. Not real patients.

HOW CAN WE HELP CONTROL THE SPREAD OF PERTUSSIS?



Encourage the parents of your patients or your patients to come in and get a wellness visit to talk about preventive health measures which include breastfeeding for infants, proper nutrition, sufficient sleep and exercise.



Enjoin the parents of children 12 months and below to complete the three primary doses of DPT-containing vaccines. If they've missed schedules, work with the parents on catching-up their vaccines. The Philippine Pediatric Society (PPS) / Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialists of the Philippines (PIDSP) / Philippine Foundation for Vaccination (PFV) have updated their yearly Childhood Immunization Calendar for 2024 which can be accessed [HERE](#) to guide you in the best time to give the doses both for the usual schedule and for catch-up.⁶

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HOW CAN WE HELP CONTROL THE SPREAD OF PERTUSSIS?



Older children and adolescents need vaccines too! Studies show that regardless of the type of DPT-containing primary vaccines (whole cell vs acellular pertussis), the mean period of waning of vaccine efficacy is 4 years⁵.

Make sure to give your school-aged children and adolescents age-appropriate boosters, also according to the PPS/PIDSP/PFV recommendation⁷

- 12 to 18 months (DTP-containing)
- 4 to 6 years (DTP-Containing)
- 9 to 18 years (Td/Tdap)

Ideally, the minimum interval between booster doses is at least 4 years. Full-dose DTP should preferably be used only until age 7 years, but package inserts should be consulted for maximum age indications of specific products⁶



Adults need protection from pertussis as well. Pregnant women, adults with co-morbidities such as obesity, COPD, asthma and cardiovascular disease, as well as smokers, are at an increased risk for pertussis⁷. In particular, providing pregnant women with a dose of Tdap from 27 to 36 weeks ensures that both mother and infants are protected from pertussis, especially in the first 6 weeks of the infants life, when they are most vulnerable. Encourage your patients and their families to update their Tdap vaccines.⁸



The time to act is now! Encourage your patients to complete their age-appropriate vaccines against pertussis and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

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