

NEWS RELEASE

May 8, 2012

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Pertussis Vaccine

Last week Governor Gregoire announced the availability of Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine for uninsured adults. The vaccine will be distributed across Washington State to help stop the spread of the disease.

Pertussis vaccine is currently available in Mason County, there is **no** shortage. County residents can get immunized by their health care provider and local pharmacies. A list of local pharmacies and clinics that provide the vaccine is included herein.

As more information becomes available about state supplied vaccine for **uninsured** adults, we will update the community via our website and public information line 360-427-9670 x 599.

You should be immunized for Pertussis (whooping cough) if you:

- Care for infants or have close contact with infants - 12 months old or younger.
- Care for or have close contact with pregnant women.
- Pertussis vaccine is part of the regular schedule of recommended vaccines for children and keeping your child up-to-date remains important.

It is recommended that you be immunized for Pertussis if you:

- Are an adult who does not know your immunization status for Pertussis.
- Are an adult whose last Pertussis immunization was 5 or more years ago.

In addition to being vaccinated, there are other things you can do to stop the spread of Pertussis to infants.

- Stay away from infants and pregnant women when you are sick with a cough.
- If asked, wear a face mask that covers your mouth and nose when caring for infants.

Pertussis is spread through face-to-face contact with someone who is sick with the disease.

Pertussis causes a cough illness that can last several weeks. While it can be a mild illness in older children and adults, it can cause severe illness in infants and pregnant women. Infants are at highest risk for complications such as difficulty breathing, pneumonia, convulsions, and even death. If you or someone in your family has a severe cough that causes vomiting or difficulty breathing, please call your health care provider.

Washington State is currently experiencing a whooping cough outbreak and the number of cases continues to increase. In Mason County, the number of confirmed whooping cough cases is also increasing slightly. There are currently 6 confirmed cases of Pertussis in the county to date.

Adult Tdap (Pertussis Vaccine) in Mason County

Clinics:

MGH Family Health 360-426-3862

- Available to clinic patients only

Shelton Family Medicine 360-426-2653

Mt. View Women's Center 360-426-0955

- Available to OB patients

Harrison Primary Care 360-277-2950

Pharmacies:

Fred Myer 360-432-5373

Medicine Shoppe 426-4272

Safeway 360-426-0718

Safeway-Belfair 360-275-0953

QFC-Belfair 360-275-9671

Rite Aid-Belfair 360-275-8964

Call ahead to verify cost and/or insurance coverage.

For more information, call 360-427-9670, Ext 400 or 360-275-4467, Ext 400 from Belfair or 360-482-5269, Ext 400 From Elma.

Lynda Ring Erickson
Chair

Steve Bloomfield
Commissioner

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner

