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## **Division of Public and Behavioral Health**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Pertussis**

*Carson City* – Nevada has seen a rise in pertussis cases over recent years. As of June 2014, Nevada has had 60 cases of pertussis reported, more than this time last year, hinting towards another year of elevated pertussis cases in the state. Controlling the spread of pertussis requires quick identification of cases and contacts, prompt treatment of these individuals, and immunization of susceptible persons. Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, starts with the following symptoms: runny or stuffed-up nose, sneezing, mild cough, and a pause in breathing in infants (apnea). Whooping cough spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. A person can spread the disease while he or she has cold-like symptoms and for at least 2 weeks after coughing starts.

The DTaP vaccine is a shot that combines the vaccines for whooping cough (pertussis) and two other serious diseases: diphtheria and tetanus. The DTaP vaccine protects children by preparing their bodies to fight the bacteria. Getting your child the DTaP vaccine helps protect them against whooping cough. It also protects other people who can't get the vaccine—especially newborn babies, who can get very sick and die from whooping cough.

Early treatment of pertussis is very important. If treatment for pertussis is started early in the course of illness, during the first 1 to 2 weeks before coughing attacks occur, symptoms may be lessened. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides treatment recommendations by age group at the following link: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/treatment.html>.

Please contact your local public health authority to report cases of pertussis.

Las Vegas area: Southern Nevada Health District, 702.759.1300

Reno/Sparks area: Washoe County Health District, 775.328.2447

Carson City, Douglas, Lyon County area: Carson City Health and Human Services, 775.887.2190

Other counties: Rural Community Health Services, 775.687.5162 (business hours) or 775.434.4358 (after hours)

State of Nevada Epidemiology Duty Officer (24 hours): 775.400.0333

For more information about the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, go to:

<http://health.nv.gov>.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Whitley".

Richard Whitley, Administrator

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