

Vaccinations urged as Colorado whooping cough epidemic continues

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Responding to a recent surge in cases of whooping cough (pertussis), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment urged Coloradans to ensure they're up to date on vaccinations. One hundred new cases of pertussis were reported in the second half of October.

In the first 10 months of 2013, 1,116 cases of pertussis were reported. Colorado has seen epidemic levels of pertussis over the past two years. The 1,494 cases in 2012 made it the state's worst year for whooping cough, surpassing the 1,383 cases in 2005.

"Pertussis immunizations are recommended for all children and adults, but it is especially important for people who have contact with infants to be up-to-date," said Dr. Rachel Herlihy, the medical director of the department's immunization section. "Infants are too young to receive the vaccine themselves and have a higher risk of hospitalization and death due to pertussis."

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