



Alarming pertussis case counts are expected to beat state record.

Vaccinations urged as whooping cough on track to pass 910 cases statewide in 2024.

Oregon is expected to surpass its record of 910 pertussis cases by the end of 2024, prompting health officials to sharpen their warnings about the disease's serious risks—especially for young babies—and their emphasis on the importance of vaccination.

As of Jan 1, 2024 to Nov. 18, 2024, Deschutes County had seen 59 cases of pertussis (whooping cough), ranking it the sixth-highest county in the number of cases and the highest annual count since 2019.

“Getting vaccinated does not only protect you, it also protects your loved ones and close contacts, some of whom are more susceptible to complications from pertussis,” said Dr. Rita Bacho, Program Manager for Communicable Disease Prevention and Management.

Key Recommendation: Get Vaccinated

- Babies too young to be fully vaccinated suffer the most from pertussis, with the highest reported incidence rate and highest likelihood of hospitalization and death. This is because babies don't start building protection against infection until they are vaccinated at 2 months old.
- To protect young infants, we **recommend that those who are pregnant receive Tdap vaccination at 27–36 weeks of pregnancy**—irrespective of the pregnant person's prior history of receiving Tdap. Tdap given to pregnant persons will stimulate the development of maternal anti-pertussis antibodies, which will cross the placenta and protect infants—particularly those too young to be vaccinated against the disease. Various studies have found such vaccination to be 78%–91% effective in preventing pertussis among young infants.
- When an infant or pregnant person is in the household of someone with pertussis, all household members should receive a course of antibiotics effective against *Bordetella pertussis*—typically, a 5-day course of azithromycin.

Other Recommendations:

CDC recommends pertussis vaccination for all ages.

- All children should be vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis at 2, 4, 6, and 15–18 months, and again at 4 years to kindergarten age (through 6 years) with Dtap or a Dtap-containing combination vaccine.
- All persons ages 10 and older should receive a single dose of Tdap, then a booster every 10 years or sooner if indicated, such as during each pregnancy between 27–36 weeks gestation.

Public Health Reporting

Providers are required to report *Bordetella pertussis* cases (including suspect cases) within one working day (OAR 333-081-0015[5C]).

NOTE: *Bordetella parapertussis* is NOT reportable to public health.

Licensed labs must similarly report within one working day of identification or initial positive test report to the requesting physician (OAR 333-081-0015[4]).

To report cases of *Bordetella pertussis* within one working day, please reach out to the patient's county of residence or Oregon Health Authority:

[Deschutes County Public Health - Communicable Disease](#)

Phone: (541) 322-7418

Fax: (541) 322-7618

[Crook County Public Health](#)

Phone: (541) 447-5165

Fax: (541) 447-3093

[Jefferson County Public Health](#)

Phone: (541) 475-4456

Fax: (541) 475-0132

[Oregon Health Authority – Acute & Communicable Disease Prevention \(ACDP\) Program](#)

Phone: (971) 673-1111

Fax: (971) 673-1100

For clinical information on Pertussis please visit the [CDC website](#).

To request this information in an alternate format, please call (541) 322-7164

or send an email to HealthServices@deschutes.org.

Deschutes County Health Services | 2577 NE Courtney Drive | Bend, OR 97701 US

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