



**Mobridge Regional Hospital and Clinics**  
1401 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. West  
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## **Confirmed case of Pertussis in Mobridge**

**Mobridge, SD (February 7, 2020)**- Mobridge Regional Hospital and Clinics has received a number of questions regarding a recent occurrence of pertussis in our area. If you have questions about what pertussis is, how to prevent it and how to treat it, please read through the information below. Additional information can be found on the Department of Health website. This information is provided for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for medical care. Please see your health care provider concerning appropriate care, treatment or other medical advice.

### **What is pertussis?**

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a very contagious disease of the respiratory tract. It is caused by a bacteria (*Bordetella pertussis*) that is found in the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person.

### **What are the symptoms of pertussis?**

Pertussis begins as a mild upper respiratory infection. Initially, symptoms resemble a common cold, including sneezing, runny nose, low-grade fever and a mild cough. Within two weeks the cough becomes more severe and is characterized by episodes of numerous and rapid coughs often followed by vomiting, “crowing” or high pitched whoops. A thick, clear mucus may be discharged. These episodes may recur for one to two months, and are more frequent at night. Symptoms gradually go away. Older people or partially immunized children generally have milder symptoms.

### **Who gets pertussis?**

Pertussis can occur at any age. It is most severe in babies under 6 months old, especially in preterm and unvaccinated infants.

### **How is pertussis spread?**

Transmission is by close contact with aerosolized drops discharged during an infected person's coughing or sneezing. Older siblings and adults who may be harboring the bacteria in their nose and throat can infect an infant in the household.

### **How soon after infection do symptoms appear?**

The incubation period is usually 9 to 10 days but may range from 6 to 20 days.

### **When and for how long is a person able to spread pertussis?**

A person can transmit pertussis from 7 days following exposure to three weeks after the onset of coughing episodes. The period of communicability is reduced to 5 days with antibiotic therapy.

### **What are the complications associated with pertussis?**

Complications of pertussis may include pneumonia, encephalopathy (brain disorders), and death of 1% of infants younger than 2 months old.



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### **What is the vaccine for pertussis?**

The pertussis vaccine is usually given in combination with diphtheria and tetanus-Dtap and Tdap. The vaccine is given at 2, 4, 6 and 15 months of age and between 4 and 6 years of age. Adolescents age 11-12 get a booster as well. Boosters should be given to adults every 10 years. Pregnant woman also usually receive a booster regardless of immunization status.

### **What can be done to prevent the spread of pertussis?**

**Vaccinate** your children. The single most effective control measure is maintaining the highest possible level of immunization in the community. Treatment of cases with certain antibiotics can shorten the contagious period.

### **Who needs antibiotics?**

**All household contacts** to a known pertussis case should be given preventative antibiotics.

**Close contacts** to a known pertussis case should receive preventative antibiotics **only** if they have high risk conditions (infants, women in the third trimester of pregnancy, and those with chronic health conditions such as an immunocompromising condition or chronic lung disease like asthma) or are in close contact with those who have high risk conditions.

### **Who is a “close contact”?**

A close contact is someone who has been one arm’s length away for an hour or more to a known pertussis case.

### **How do I know if my child is a “close contact”?**

The SD department of health will personally contact you if your child is a close contact.

### **Will my child get better with treatment?**

Treatment will not shorten the duration of cough, but after 5 days of treatment your child will no longer be contagious.

***The state will contact you if you were in close contact with pertussis case. If you have not been contacted, your child may continue to attend school.***

**As a general rule, healthy people without high risk conditions and are not in close contact with those who have high risk conditions, do not need to be given antibiotics even after close contact with a known case. The one exception is that all household contacts with a known pertussis case should be given preventative antibiotics.**

**Go see your see doctor if you have symptoms of pertussis-see above.**

<https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/diseasefacts/pertussis.aspx>