TESTING for PERTUSSIS

Early diagnosis helps stop the spread.

Pertussis is caused by Bordetella pertussis bacteria. It is concerning for women in the last trimester of pregnancy and can be fatal in infants under the age of one. It has three classic stages: catarrhal, paroxysmal, and convalescent. Patients with pertussis often seek physician assessment multiple times before they are tested and diagnosed with pertussis.

Think pertussis and test!

Please consider pertussis as part of your differential diagnosis:
- Prolonged cough (greater than two weeks)
- Paroxysmal cough
- Symptomatic person who says they have been in contact with a case of pertussis

REMEMBER:
Adolescents, adults and children partially protected by the vaccine may have milder disease than infants and young children. These people may be asymptomatic, or present with illness ranging from a mild cough to classic pertussis with persistent cough. Inspiratory whoop is not common in this group.

NASAL PHARYNGEAL SWAB IN UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIUM (UTM) WITH REQUISITION REQUESTING BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS TESTING

DON’T FORGET TO REPORT!
When testing or confirming pertussis, report immediately to Communicable Disease Control at 306-655-4612.

People suspected of having pertussis should be told to stay away from infants under one year of age and pregnant women in their last trimester.

306-655-4612
diseasecontrol@saskatoonhealthregion.ca

Updated 24/10/2017