
Media Release



Whooping Cough Outbreak Over March 20, 2020 - For immediate release

Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) has officially ended the pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak that was declared on November 8, 2019 in the district of Timiskaming. The last case symptom onset was January 24, 2020 and as per ministry guidelines, the outbreak can be declared over 48 days post symptom onset of the last case.

During the outbreak, there were 41 confirmed cases and 4 probable cases of pertussis. Of those, 36 were in Temiskaming Shores, 2 in Englehart area and 3 in Kirkland Lake area. There were no hospitalizations or deaths. The majority of the cases were either fully or partially immunized.

Pertussis – a bacterial infection that causes severe coughing that may last for weeks – can impact all age groups; however, infants one year of age and younger are at greatest risk of serious complications, including pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage and even death.

Immunization is the best and most effective method to protect against and limit the spread of pertussis. All Timiskaming District residents are encouraged to keep up-to-date with their immunizations and to do the same for children and families. Anyone uncertain of their immunization history, or their child's, can contact any of the THU offices during work hours to discuss, review and/or to book an appointment to complete any required immunizations.

In Ontario, vaccine that protects against pertussis is offered to children, free of charge, through [Ontario's Routine Immunization Scheduled](#). Pregnant women are also eligible for the pertussis-containing vaccine. All adults 18 years of age and older can and should receive one adult dose of the pertussis-containing vaccine.

Additional information about pertussis and the importance of immunization is available online at <http://www.timiskaminghu.com/365/Vaccines-Immunizations>

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For more information

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