



**Summary of Pertussis Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines**

	INFANTS < 12 MONTHS	CHILDREN >1 YEAR AND ADULTS
Clinical Presentation	<p>Strongly consider pertussis if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age &lt;3 months</li> <li>• Persistent/worsening cough</li> <li>• Low/no fever</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent/paroxysmal cough</li> <li>• Low/no fever</li> <li>• Any of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Apnea</li> <li>○ Cyanosis</li> <li>○ Post-tussive emesis</li> <li>○ Seizure</li> <li>○ Pneumonia</li> <li>○ Inspiratory whoop</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Suspect pertussis if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough ≥ 7 days</li> <li>• Low/no fever</li> <li>• Paroxysms, post-tussive emesis, inspiratory whoop</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough ≥ 14 days</li> <li>• Low/no fever</li> <li>• No alternative diagnosis</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cough of any duration</li> <li>• No alternative diagnosis</li> <li>• Close contact with a pertussis case, pregnant woman in 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester, close contact with infants or pregnant women</li> </ul>
Testing for suspected cases * (negative results do not rule out pertussis if clinically suspected)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR preferred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR preferred</li> <li>• Testing is <u>not</u> necessary if close contact of a lab-confirmed case</li> </ul>
Antibiotic treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin if within 6 weeks of cough onset</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin if within 3 weeks of cough onset</li> <li>• In 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester pregnancy, begin if within 6 weeks of cough onset</li> </ul>
Exclusion from schools, childcare, health care settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclude until <u>5 days</u> of antibiotic treatment are completed</li> <li>• If cases are not treated with antibiotics, exclude for <u>21 days</u> from onset of paroxysmal cough.</li> </ul>	
Post-exposure prophylaxis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer to close contacts of a case who are infants (&lt;1 year of age), 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester pregnant women, and all other household and other close contacts if there is an infant or 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester pregnant women in that setting.</li> </ul>	

\*Prioritize testing of infants, pregnant women and their close contacts.

Chart adapted from Public Health Seattle & King County, WA [www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health).