

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**2016- PAHAN — 364-11-30-ADV**  
**Pertussis in Cumberland and Franklin Counties –**  
**Update**



<b>DATE:</b>	11/30/2016
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN, Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Pertussis in Cumberland and Franklin Counties – Update</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Cumberland and Franklin Counties
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Southcentral Pennsylvania
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	Statewide
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Statewide
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	Statewide
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	Statewide

**This transmission is a “Health Advisory” that provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.**

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING, AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

**EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) is releasing the following update on the outbreak of pertussis in Cumberland and Franklin Counties.

An outbreak of pertussis is ongoing in Cumberland and Franklin Counties. The department is working closely with affected school districts to exclude possible cases of pertussis from school and refer those affected for medical evaluation and treatment.

Previously, the PADOH had issued instructions to collect duplicate nasopharyngeal swabs or washes on patients suspected of pertussis in the indicated outbreak. Simultaneous testing would be performed at both the PADOH Bureau of Laboratories and your clinical laboratory. The goal for this special request has been met and the department no longer needs to receive these specimens. Therefore, please **DO NOT** collect pertussis specimens in duplicate or forward specimens to the Bureau of Laboratories. Please follow your usual protocol for the pertussis testing at your designated laboratory, as clinically appropriate. Thank you for your participation in this surveillance event. Any questions or concerns regarding these recommendations should be directed to the PADOH (1-877-PA-HEALTH) or your local health department.

More information about pertussis can be found at the CDC Web page:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/index.html>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

This information is current as of November 30, 2016, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.