

SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

HEALTH UPDATE

Pertussis Immunization Schedule

Due to the decreased number of pertussis cases being identified in North Dakota, the North Dakota Department of Health recommends that healthcare providers and local public health departments consider returning to the routine vaccination schedule for pertussis-containing vaccines.

If pertussis continues to be a problem in your area, physicians and public health departments may continue utilizing the accelerated DTaP vaccination schedule for infants.

Healthcare providers and local health departments should encourage parents to have their children vaccinated at the appropriate ages. This will help ensure that all children have protection against pertussis and other vaccine preventable diseases by the time the child is 6 months old.

Please contact the Division of Disease Control at 800.472.2180 with any questions or comments regarding the childhood immunization schedule.

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.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.