



NOVEMBER 04, 2004

HEALTH UPDATE

Pertussis Testing

Effective **November 1, 2004**, the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) will resume charging \$45/specimen for pertussis testing.

The NDDoH will continue to coordinate epidemiological case investigations with laboratory-confirmed and epidemiologically-linked pertussis cases. Testing charges based on these investigations may be waived only upon approval of the NDDoH.

Providers should review the criteria for the appropriate testing for pertussis. Guidelines for pertussis testing have been previously provided and are available at:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/disease/Documents/Immunization/PertussisUpdate082604.pdf>

Questions regarding pertussis may be directed to Molly Sander or Heather Weaver from the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or toll-free 800.472.2180. Questions regarding pertussis testing procedures should be directed to the Division of Microbiology at 701.328.6272.

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.