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City of West

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McLennan County

## Health Alert Pertussis Update

(July 25, 2019) The Waco-McLennan County Public Health District is currently investigating a community wide outbreak of Pertussis (Whooping Cough). There are 8 confirmed cases with no single source connecting all of the cases.

Pertussis is a bacterial infection that affects the airways and can easily spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing. Pertussis can cause a severe cough that lasts for weeks or months, sometimes leading to coughing fits and/or vomiting. Early symptoms are flu-like (runny nose, fever, mild cough) while later stage symptoms include:

- Fits of rapid coughs followed by a high-pitched “whoop/barking” sound;
- Vomiting during or after coughing fits; and
- Exhaustion after coughing fits.

**If you or someone in your family is experiencing these symptoms, it is important to contact your health care provider regardless of vaccination status.**

**Anyone can get pertussis.** It can be very dangerous for babies and people with weakened immune systems. Family members with pertussis, especially siblings and parents, can spread pertussis to babies.

**Vaccination is the best protection against Pertussis.** It does not provide lifelong immunity. Booster doses are essential to maintaining protection. The vaccine is available for children and adults.

Visit our website for more information on Pertussis and Immunization Clinic hours at [www.wacomclennanphd.org](http://www.wacomclennanphd.org).

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