



# WASHINGTON STATE Board of Health

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**DATE:** November 14, 2012  
**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members  
**FROM:** Dr. Diana Yu  
**SUBJECT:** PERTUSSIS BRIEFING

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## **Background and Summary:**

This year, pertussis cases in Washington reached epidemic levels in some areas of our state. As of October 20, 2012, there were 4,387 cases, compared to only 562 for the same time period last year. During the past year, 38 counties have had pertussis activity, with the number of cases reported by county ranging from 1 to 696. Since January 1, 2012, 322 infants under one year of age were reported as having whooping cough and 62 of them were hospitalized. Of those hospitalized, 51 were three months of age or younger. However, the good news is that we have begun to see a drop in the number of weekly case reported.

The Department of Health and local health jurisdictions have been devoting a lot of effort to trying to stop this epidemic and to prevent future outbreaks. Today we will hear how the incidence of the disease has changed over time, and learn more about why pertussis has been so widespread in Washington this year. I have invited Jeff Duchin, the Chief of Communicable Disease Control, Epidemiology and Immunization Section at Public Health Seattle and King County; and Chas DeBolt, Senior Epidemiologist for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases at the Department of Health, to present on this subject.

## **Recommended Board Action:**

No action needed.

## **Staff Contact:**

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