

Pertussis Health Message



**Houston Department of
Health and Human Services**

There has been a significant increase in the number of reported cases of pertussis (whooping cough) in the Houston community this year. As of July 2013, The Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) has investigated over three times the number of cases that are normally reported this time of year.



Pertussis is a bacterial infection spread by respiratory droplets released into the air by coughing and sneezing. Symptoms of pertussis may appear 4-10 days following exposure but can take as long as 21 days. The first stage of pertussis begins like a cold with a runny nose, low-grade fever (if present) and mild occasional cough which slowly gets worse. This stage can last 1-2 weeks and an individual with pertussis is most contagious during this time. The second stage is marked by severe and spasmodic coughing. The cough can have a “whooping” sound when an individual inhales and vomiting can result.

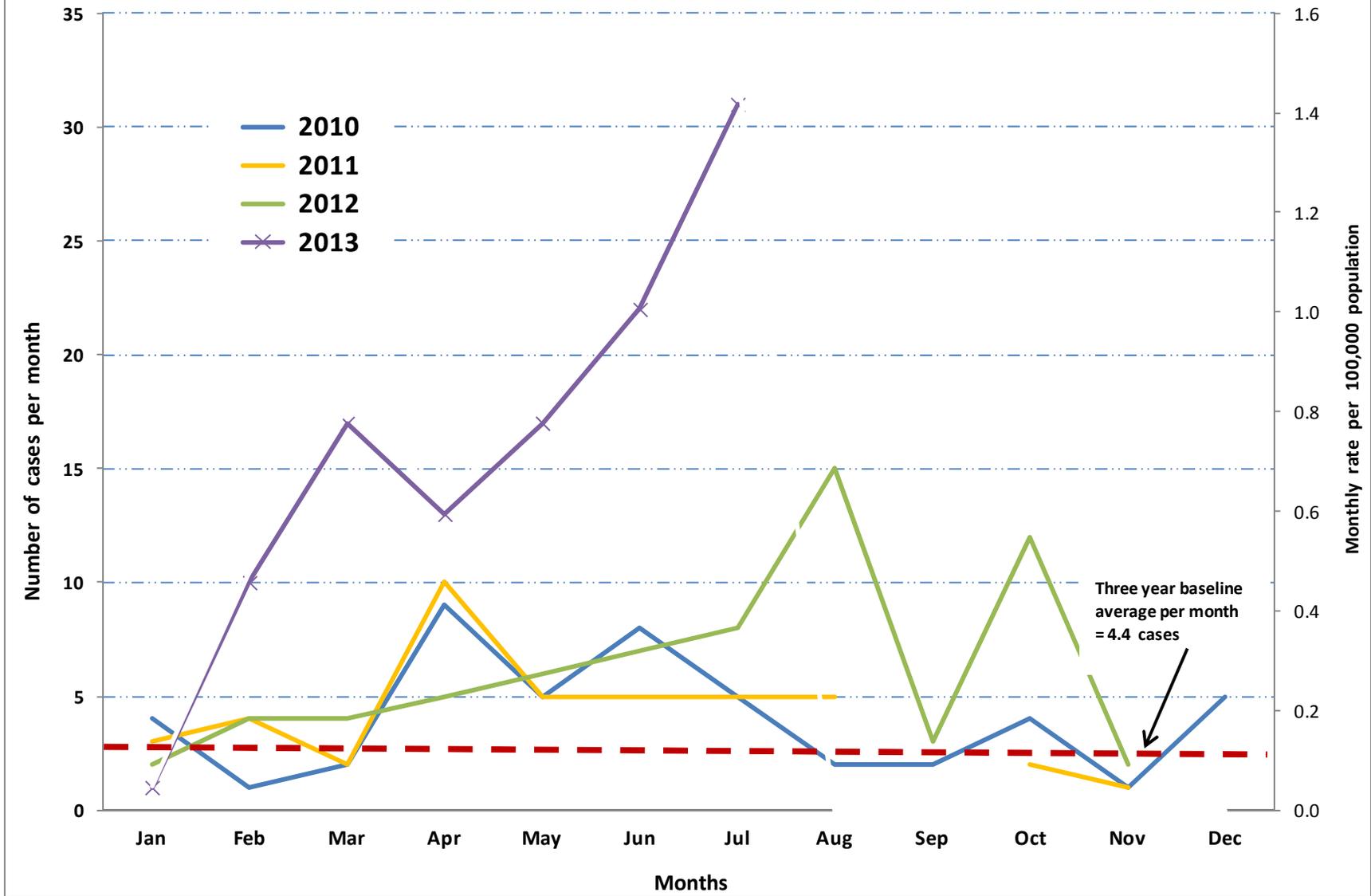
Although most people completely recover from pertussis, complications from the disease can be severe in high risk groups, especially infants less than one year of age and children who have not been fully immunized against the disease.

The Houston Department of Health and Human Services recommends that close contacts to a person with pertussis receive antibiotic treatment regardless of vaccination status and age. A close contact is defined as being within close proximity (2 feet) for duration of 2 hours or longer at any one period of time. Individuals who have been in contact with a person with pertussis should be monitored for respiratory symptoms for 21 days after the last exposure with the infected person.

As you know, most children have been immunized against pertussis. However, with time their immunity wanes. Protection against pertussis is enhanced with the DTdap vaccine which is required for all children entering school and Tdap is recommended as a booster to the DTaP vaccine in people ages 11 – 64.

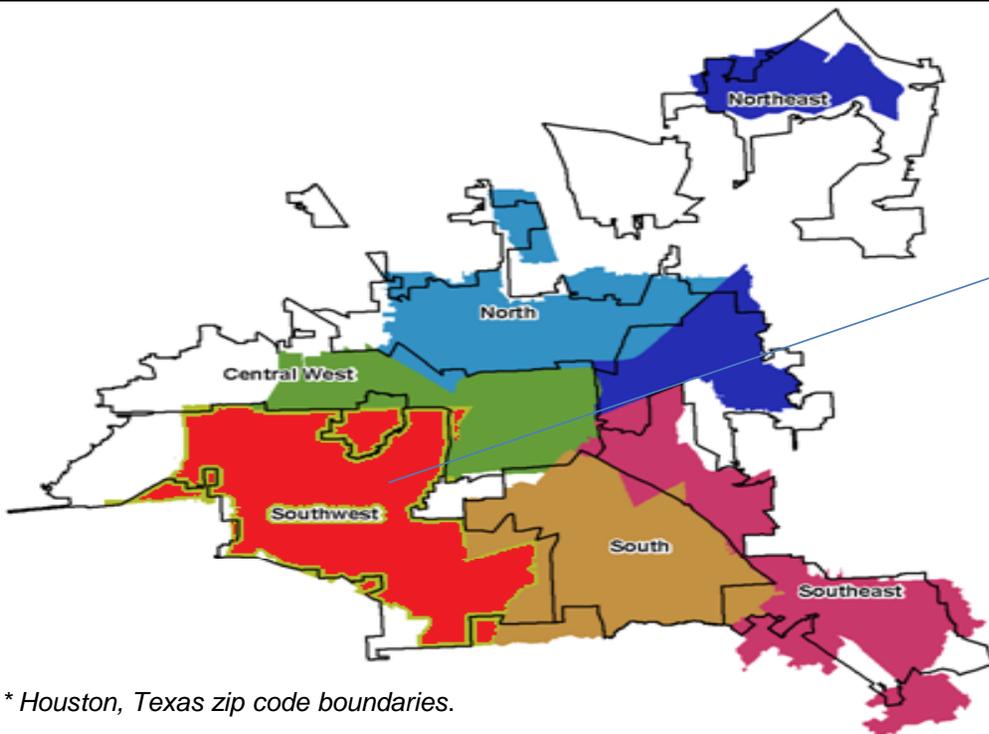
You are encouraged to contact your health care provider if you have any concerns or questions. You may also contact the Houston Department of Health and Human Services at 832-393-5080 for further information.

Pertussis Cases in Houston, Texas: 2010 - 2013



Source: Houston department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS)

Distribution of Pertussis Cases in Houston, Texas: January - August 15, 2013



HDHHS Pertussis Cases as of 8-15-2013		
Region	Count	Rate per 100,000
Northeast	10	0.48
North	14	0.67
Central West	18	0.86
Southwest	54	2.57
South	12	0.57
Southeast	15	0.71
Total	123	5.86

* Houston, Texas zip code boundaries.

Pertussis Cases in Houston, TX for 2013 Season

Months	Gender	Age < 1	Age 1 - 4	Age 5 - 9	Age 10 - 19	Age > 19	Totals
January	Male						0
	Female	1					1
February	Male	3	2		2	1	8
	Female				1	1	2
March	Male	5		1	1		7
	Female	3	2	2		3	10
April	Male	4		1			5
	Female	3	3		2		8
May	Male	3				1	4
	Female	7		3	2	1	13
June	Male	6	2	2		2	12
	Female	7		2		1	10
July	Male	4	2	2	3	3	14
	Female	4	4	3	5	3	19
August*	Male	1	2		1		4
	Female	2			2	2	6
September	Male						
	Female						
October	Male						
	Female						
November	Male						
	Female						
December	Male						
	Female						
Totals		53	17	16	19	18	123

*Pertussis cases through the second week of August.