Provisional data shows that our nation hit a 60-year record high in 2012, with more than 41,000 reported cases and 15 infant deaths. After 2012 incidents continued to decline until a slight increase in 2017. Reported cases are again down in 2018 with approximately 13,000 cases and only 4 infant deaths. However, national reports place Nebraska 14th in the highest rates of diagnosed cases of pertussis, reporting 156 cases in Nebraska in 2018.

Approximately 4 out of 5 adults do not report to have the Tdap vaccination.
Public Health Emergency Response

In response to natural disasters such as flooding and hurricanes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) current guidelines state that emergency responders should receive a Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) booster if they have not been vaccinated for tetanus within the past ten years.

Exposure to flood waters does not increase the risk of tetanus, however, those who are not current with their tetanus vaccination should get a Tdap vaccine to be protected.

Tetanus is an infection caused by a bacterium spore called Clostridium tetani, which is present everywhere in the environment, including soil, dust and manure. The bacteria can get into the body through broken skin, usually through injuries from contaminated objects like exposed nails, barbwire or needles. In the event of a natural disaster, emergency responders and individuals in the community could be at risk of getting puncture wounds, cuts, and/or scrapes that could be contaminated with bacteria leading to a tetanus infection. Being up to date with your tetanus vaccine is the best way to prevent tetanus infection.

For additional information or to make an appointment for a vaccine please contact us at:

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

111 NORTH DEWEY STREET

SUITE A

NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101

308-696-6831

WWW.WCDHD.ORG

Resources:

https://www.cdc.gov
https://www.redcross.org
https://www.immunize.nc.gov