

Lexington warns of whooping cough outbreak

Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

Public health officials in Lexington are warning of an outbreak of pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, with nearly a dozen cases in Fayette County in just over a month.

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department has confirmed 11 cases of pertussis since Oct. 3, with the majority reported since Oct. 24. Ten of the cases involve school-age children, and one case is a 1-year-old child. All individuals were up to date on their vaccinations.

Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory illness spread through coughing and sneezing, and it can be particularly severe for infants and those with chronic conditions. Symptoms can begin like a common cold, including a runny nose, sneezing, low-grade fever and a nagging cough that resembles an allergy, but persists. After one to two weeks, the cough may worsen, becoming intense and uncontrollable, sometimes accompanied by a “whooping” sound when gasping for air, vomiting or exhaustion.

Caregivers should check for these symptoms in themselves and children and seek testing if pertussis is suspected.

“Vaccines are one of the major achievements of modern medicine, helping eradicate diseases,” said Dr.

Crystal Miller, commissioner of health for LFCHD. “Pertussis (aka whooping cough) is one of those vaccine preventable diseases. We encourage families to get their children vaccinated and stay up to date on vaccines.”

The pertussis vaccine is routine and required for school-age children, with a Tdap booster recommended for those aged 11 and older. Immunity can wane over time, making boosters critical for older children and adults.

Those who have never received the Tdap vaccine should contact their primary care provider or local health department to check availability.

Children with pertussis symptoms should stay home from school and visit a healthcare provider for evaluation, even if vaccinated. Those diagnosed with probable or confirmed pertussis must remain out of school until completing antibiotic treatment.

If someone in your household has pertussis, it’s recommended that other members of the household take a preventive antibiotic, called postexposure prophylaxis (PEP), to help stop the infection from spreading.

Central Kentucky caregivers are encouraged to ensure all household members are up to date on vaccinations, including boosters, and to be vigilant for pertussis symptoms.

State revenues slide 0.5 percent in October

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State Budget Director John Hicks reported Monday that October’s General Fund receipts declined 0.5 percent compared to last year, as revenues for the month were \$1,181.6 million compared to \$1,187.9 million collected in October 2024.

The official General Fund revenue estimate for FY26 calls for revenue to decline 2.3 percent compared to FY25 actual receipts. Based on receipts through the first four months of FY26, General Fund revenues can decline 2.2 percent for the remainder of the fiscal year and still meet the official estimate.

“Sales tax collections continue to improve, growing 14.5

percent in the month of October and 6.5 percent through the first four months of FY26,” Hicks said. “The individual income tax also remains strong. Withholding collections increased 3.0 percent in October and 6.4 percent so far this fiscal year. Major business taxes declined by \$118.4 million. The large drop in major business taxes was primarily attributable to the nonrecurring revenues of over \$80.0 million received in October of 2024.”

Among other major accounts:

- Property tax revenues rose 1.3 percent and are down 12.7 percent year-to-date.

- Cigarette tax receipts rose 14.3 percent and are down 3.6 percent for the first four months of the fiscal year.

- Coal severance tax receipts were \$5.3 million, 54.8 percent more than last year. Year-to-date receipts have declined 3.6 percent.

- Lottery revenues grew 2.3 percent to \$40.9 million in October and have increased 3.2 percent for the year.

Road Fund revenues grew 4.9 percent in October, with year-to-date collections up 1.3 percent compared to the previous year.

Motor fuels taxes rose 0.8 percent, down 2.4 percent for the year. Motor vehicle usage tax collections grew 2.5 percent. License and privilege revenues rose 24.2 percent in October and are up 11.8 percent for the year. Nontax receipts rose 34.4 percent for the month, down 12.1 percent for the year.

Deeds in Boyle County for Nov. 15

News release

Property transfers recently recorded in the Boyle County Clerk’s office include:

- Janet and Gary C. Crank Sr. to Sherry Murphy, property in Wildwood subdivision, \$185,900.

- Andrew and Ashley Goetsch to Tiffany Tassos, property on Smith Street, \$138,000.

- Eben and Janet Henson to Barrel Creek Investments LLP, property on North Third Street, \$80,000.

- Samuel Brown to Krystal Johnson, property on Argyll Woods, \$190,000.

- Thomas Byerly, through his attorney-in-fact Emily Bronson,

and Lois Byerly, to Nathan Cunningham, two tracts on Meadow Drive in Brenwood subdivision, \$335,000.

- Mike and Lisa Graves to Melvin and Carmen Shannon, .98 of an acre in Boyle County, \$10,000.

- Vicki Kinser to James D. Johnson, Lisa D. Riffel and Scott A. Johnson, two tracts on Worldstown Road, gift; fair cash value, \$15,000.

- Michael Middleton to Dakota and Jessica Smallwood, 5.8 acres in Boyle County, \$120,000.

- Carol and David Senn to Debra Willoughby, property on Main Street between Third and Fourth streets, \$450,000.

- Sylvan and Associates Properties LLC, through Anshula Kedar as manager, to Camden Barker, property on Rolling Hills, \$180,000.

- Streamland Swim Club Inc. to Durham Real Estate LLC, two tracts on Springhill Drive, \$35,000.

- McAfee Properties LLC to Twinkle Patel, 3.4 acres on Stanford Road, \$535,000.

- Barbara Beck to Danielle Forker, property on Coldstream Drive, \$274,000.

- Richard and Vanessa Shepperson to Gregory and Linda Johnson, property in Mocks Creek Manor subdivision, \$195,000.



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