
VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question:

A 13 year-old boy who began coughing 2 weeks ago is diagnosed with pertussis today. He has two sisters, ages 4 years and 8 years. His 8 year old sister has completed the 5-dose DTaP vaccination series. His 4 year old sister has received DTaP vaccine at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 18 months.

Which of his siblings, if any, needs post-exposure prophylaxis with antimicrobial therapy?

- a) 8 year old sibling
- b) 4 year old sibling
- c) Both
- d) Neither

[pep.html](https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/outbreaks/pep.html)

CDC Website, Pertussis Postexposure Antimicrobial Prophylaxis: <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/outbreaks/pep.html>

Source: Red Book, 2018 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, page 623.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) within 21 days of the onset of cough in the index patient is recommended for all household contacts of the index case and other close contacts, including children in child care, regardless of immunization status.

If 21 days have elapsed since onset of cough in the index case, PEP has limited value but should be considered for households with high-risk contacts (e.g., young infant, pregnant woman, person who has contact with infants). Close contacts who are unimmunized or underimmunized should have pertussis immunization initiated or continued using age-appropriate products according to the recommended schedule as soon as possible.

Answer: c) Both

