

Third whooping cough death reported; officials urge vaccinations

BY MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

State health officials have announced that a third infant has died from pertussis, or whooping cough, in Kentucky in the past 12 months.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of another infant death in Kentucky due to pertussis and are concerned by the volume of cases we are seeing throughout the commonwealth," Dr. Steven Stack, secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, said in a news release.

As of Nov. 19, the state health department reports that there have been 566 cases of whooping cough identified in Kentucky, with health

officials anticipating additional cases in the final weeks of the year.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health reports that none of the three infants who died from whooping cough had been vaccinated, nor had their mothers.

The three infant deaths from whooping cough are the commonwealth's first whooping cough deaths reported since 2018.

KDPH has warned Kentuckians about the rising threat of whooping cough, noting the largest spike in cases reported in the commonwealth since 2012. The increases are due, in part, to the national decline in vaccination rates, according to the release.

"We continue to urge Kentuckians

to get their whooping cough vaccine and to make sure they are up to date on all other recommended immunizations," Stack said. "Many illnesses can be prevented through vaccination, which helps protect not only the individual but also those around them."

VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The pertussis immunization is combined with the tetanus and diphtheria vaccines (DTaP and Tdap). Infants can receive the DTaP vaccine at the age of 2 months. The Tdap vaccine is recommended for women during pregnancy to help provide early protection for the baby.

Whooping cough vaccination is required for Kentucky school

children. However, data from the 2024-2025 Kentucky school immunization survey indicate that only 86% of kindergarteners and 85% of seventh graders are up to date on their required whooping cough vaccines.

Health officials encourage everyone to remain up to date with their pertussis vaccines. This includes:

All pregnant women should be immunized during every pregnancy to protect their babies.

Infants should be immunized when they are 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 12 to 15 months old.

Children should be immunized before starting kindergarten.

Older children should be

immunized when 11 to 12 years old.

Teens and adults should be immunized at least every 10 years or sooner if an injury occurs, or to protect a newborn.

Other ways to prevent the spread of whooping cough and other infectious illnesses include washing hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick.

Symptoms of whooping cough can vary based on age and vaccination status, but typically begin with a runny or congested nose and mild coughing. After one to two weeks, the cough can progress to rapid, violent coughing fits that may cause the characteristic "whooping" sound, vomiting or labored breathing.

Cedar Creek Lake being lowered for nuisance vegetation control

BY CASEY COUNTY NEWS

FRANKFORT — The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has begun a drawdown of Cedar Creek Lake in Lincoln County in an effort to control excessive nuisance aquatic vegetation. The lake is being lowered 7-9 feet this winter to try to control the invasive plants that are starting to negatively impact fish populations.

Cedar Creek Lake has experienced the establishment

and expansion in coverage of the invasive aquatic plant, Brazilian elodea, and is still seeing effects of other nuisance vegetation that is impacting the size and growth rates of largemouth bass, including the bigger bass.

"Eurasian watermilfoil had been established for several years in the lake, but the addition of the Brazilian elodea has really had an impact on the bass population," said Marcy Anderson, South-eastern District fisheries

program coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "With the expansion of the Brazilian elodea, the number of largemouth bass less than 8 inches sampled in the spring has become excessive, more than doubling the last few years."

The lake was previously lowered in 2007 and 2015 to address overabundant vegetation. Grass carp have also been stocked in the lake in 2009, 2016 and 2023 as part of a multi-pronged approach to maintain moderate levels of aquatic

plants.

"Drawdowns expose the nuisance vegetation to freezing temperatures throughout the winter," said Dave Dreves, Fisheries Division director for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "Even though it wouldn't be popular

with Kentucky residents, a cold, harsh winter would provide the best vegetation control. Drawing the water down out of the shoreline vegetation will also have the

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A copy of the complete County Clerk's audit report, year ending December 31, 2024, including financial statements and supplemental information, is on file at the Judge Executive's office and is available for public inspection during normal business hours. Any citizen may obtain from the Judge Executive a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for his/her personal use. Any citizen request a personal copy of the county audit report will be charged for duplication costs at a rate that shall not exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page. Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220, when a financial statement is required by KRS 424.220, are available to the public at no cost.

The Casey County News

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WEDNESDAY - 4:00 PM

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The Liberty City Council adopted Ordinance No 25-O-09. An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Liberty, Kentucky amending rates and charges for water service supplied by the City of Liberty's to East Casey County Water System. Second Reading of the Ordinance was held on November 19, 2025. The Ordinance may be viewed in its entirety at Liberty City Hall located at 518 Middleburg Street, Liberty, KY 42539.

LEGAL NOTICE

PARTON, IRMA, RANDY PARTON, SUSAN PATTERSON - Posted No Trespassing
19 acres on Parton Road.

The Liberty City Council passed Ordinance No. 25-O-08 amending Ordinance No. 25-O-05 related to city stickers. Second Reading of the Ordinance was passed on November 19, 2025. This Ordinance may be viewed in its entirety at Liberty City Hall located at 518 Middleburg Street, Liberty, KY 42539.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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