Testing/Treatment Algorithm for Possible Pertussis Cases

TESTING

TREATMENT

Does Patient have an afebrile cough?
Children: > 1 week (not improving cough)
Adult: 1-6 weeks (not improving cough)

AND

One or more of the following:
- Post-tussive emesis
- Paroxysmal cough >20 seconds
- Cough with "Whoop" (in adults)
- Color change with cough
- Infant with apnea

No

No Testing

Does patient have face to face contact with known (+) case? (within 3 feet) — No → (No Testing); Yes →

Does patient have cough? — Yes → **Test and Treat**

No

Provide Prophylactic Antibiotics

Is patient ≥ 8 years old?
- Yes → **Prophylactic Medications:** Primary- Azithromycin Secondary- Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole
- No → **Prophylactic Medications:** Primary- Azithromycin Secondary- doxycycline

Test and Treat → **Is patient > 1 year old?**

Is patient > 1 year old?
- No → **PCR Test** Preferred → **PCR Test Results**
- Yes → **PCR Test** Preferred *(Not necessary if close contact of lab-confirmed case)* → **PCR Test Results**

PCR Test Results (> 1 year old branch):
- Positive → **Begin antimicrobial treatment if within 6 weeks of cough onset** → **Is child ≥1 month?**
  - Yes → **Treatment options:** Azithromycin; **Alternative if child is ≥ 2 months:** Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole
  - No → **Treatment option:** Azithromycin
- Negative → **Negative results do not rule out pertussis, if clinically suspected** → **Strong clinical suspicion persists** → (Treatment options box)

PCR Test Results (lower branch):
- Positive → **Is patient in 3rd trimester of pregnancy?**
  - No → **Begin antimicrobial treatment if within 3 weeks of cough onset** → **Treatment options:** Azithromycin
  - Yes → **Begin antimicrobial treatment, if within 6 weeks of cough onset** → **Treatment options:** Azithromycin
- Negative → **Negative results do not rule out pertussis if, clinically suspected** → **Strong clinical suspicion persists** → **Treatment options:** Azithromycin; **Alternative:** Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole