



# Central Michigan District Health Department

*Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities*

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**Branch Offices:**

**Arenac County**  
3727 Deep River Rd.  
Standish, MI 48658  
989-846-6541  
FAX 989-846-0431

**Clare County**  
225 W. Main  
P.O. Box 237  
Harrison, MI 48625  
989-539-6731  
FAX 989-539-4449

**Gladwin County**  
103 N. Bowery  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
989-426-9431  
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**Isabella County**  
2012 E. Preston Ave.  
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989-773-5921  
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**Osceola County**  
4329 220th Avenue  
Reed City, MI 49677  
231-832-5532  
FAX 231-832-1020

**Marion Human Services**  
502 E. Main Street  
P.O. Box 39  
Marion, MI 49665  
231-743-9877  
FAX 231-743-2140

**Roscommon County**  
1015 Short Drive  
P.O. Box 739  
Prudenville, MI 48651  
989-366-9166  
FAX 989-366-8921

**To:** Health Care Providers **HIGH PRIORITY**  
(Please Distribute to Emergency Departments, Urgent Care Centers,  
and Doctors Offices)

**From:** Robert Graham, DO, MPH  
Medical Director Mid-Michigan and Central Michigan District Health  
Departments

**Date:** July 24, 2009

**Re:** Recent and Ongoing Pertussis Outbreak

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department, the Central Michigan District Health Department, and District Health Department Number 10 have been receiving reports of multiple laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis. The cases are occurring in all age groups. There have been no deaths reported but several cases have been hospitalized.

Pertussis in children is often accompanied by the classical whoop. The whoop occurs when air is forcibly drawn into the lungs against a partially closed epiglottis. In adults the whoop may or may not be present. The key to a clinical diagnosis in adults is a link to a known or suspected case of pertussis and a cough that persists for more than two weeks.

A person suspected of having pertussis can be tested for pertussis by collecting a naso-pharyngeal swab for polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Culture specimens can also be collected but the turnaround time for a culture is usually longer than a PCR.

If you make a diagnosis of pertussis you are asked to report the case to the communicable disease division of your local health department. Also, if you make a diagnosis of pertussis you are asked to give prophylactic treatment to household contacts of the case.

The macrolide agents erythromycin, clarithromycin, and azithromycin are preferred for the treatment of pertussis in persons aged >1 month. For infants aged <1 month, azithromycin is preferred. For treatment of persons aged >2 months, an alternative agent to macrolides is trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMZ). If erythromycin is chosen to treat pertussis it should be given for 14 days. If azithromycin or clarithromycin are chosen they can be given for 5 or 7 days respectively. The length of treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis is the same.

Please evaluate your patients for the need for a booster dose against pertussis. Children that have not completed a recommended series of pertussis vaccination should be brought up to date. Adults can also be given pertussis booster vaccination.

For questions or to report a case, please contact a Communicable Disease nurse in your county at the following numbers:

**Arenac County:** 989-846-6541, extension 8128  
**Clare County:** 989-539-6731, extension 8220  
**Gladwin County:** 989-426-9431, extension 8328  
**Isabella County:** 989-773-5921, extension 8434  
**Osceola County:** 231-832-5532, extension 8512  
**Roscommon County:** 989-366-9166, extension 8628