



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8413
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, www.cmdhd.org

To: Local News Media Outlets

From: Dr. Robert Graham, Medical Director

RE: More Whooping Cough Cases Reported in Central Michigan Counties

Release Date: January 23, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

The Central Michigan District Health Department has received notice of two confirmed cases of whooping cough in Clare County. In addition to the two cases, three other cases have been linked to one of the confirmed cases.

Whooping cough has been on the rise in Michigan lately and has caused illness in several counties in the Central Michigan area.

A walk-in whooping cough booster vaccination clinic is scheduled for January 27, 2009 at the Clare County Branch Office of the Central Michigan District Health Department from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. It is at 225 W. Main Street which is located inside the Clare County Courthouse Building.

Whooping cough, also called Pertussis, starts out like the common cold. The initial symptoms last a week. A cough then develops along with the characteristic whoop.

"The whoop sound made in Pertussis is caused by a person trying to bring in air through a swollen throat," said Dr. Robert Graham, Medical Director of the Mid- and Central Michigan District Health Departments.

The cough of whooping cough can last as long as 12 weeks. Whooping cough can lead to severe complications such as hospitalization and pneumonia. In very young children whooping cough can even cause death.

Whooping cough is spread by respiratory droplets. People with whooping cough can transmit the whooping cough germ for four weeks after becoming ill.

The best treatment is prevention. Children usually get the vaccine in early infancy. Adolescents and adults are recommended to get a booster dose to help protect them against Pertussis. Two new vaccines are available to help provide protection from whooping cough. The new vaccines are licensed by the Food and Drug Administration for people 11 years through 64 years of age.

People that live with someone with whooping cough should talk to their doctor about receiving a course of antibiotics. Treatment with antibiotics if given early enough can reduce the damage done by the infection and stop the spread of the whooping cough germ.

The Central Michigan District Health Department will bill people's insurance companies that have immunization coverage. For those without health insurance, the vaccine will be offered for free but donations will be accepted, but are not required. For more information call 989-539-6731 x 8211.

Central Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties.

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