



**PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA**

Central Michigan District Health Department  
“Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities”

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8433  
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org)

**To: Local News Media Outlets**  
**From: Dr. Robert Graham, Medical Director**  
**RE: Whooping Cough in central Michigan**  
**Release Date: March 14, 2014**

The Central Michigan District Health Department has received notice of seven confirmed cases of whooping cough in the Mt. Pleasant area. The patients are expected to make a full recovery.

Whooping cough has been on the rise in Michigan since 2009 and has caused illness in several counties in the Central Michigan area.

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 Central Michigan District Health Department.

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. In Michigan, one infant died of pertussis in 2012<sup>1</sup>.

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. Vaccines are available to help provide protection from whooping cough.

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.

If you have questions about Pertussis, please contact your family doctor or the Isabella County Branch Office of Central Michigan District Health Department at 989-773-5921 ext. 8434.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org) and LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook.

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,4612,7-132-2942\\_4911\\_4914-240419--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,4612,7-132-2942_4911_4914-240419--,00.html)

###