



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS  
IN CLARE AND ISABELLA COUNTIES**

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

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8413  
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**To: Health Care Providers**  
**From: Robert Graham, DO, MPH**  
**Medical Director**  
**Date: February 1, 2011**  
**Re: Pertussis**

The Central Michigan District Health Department has been notified of a total of five confirmed cases of Pertussis (whooping cough) in Clare and Isabella Counties. The five cases have occurred since the beginning of the New Year. In Michigan there has been an increasing amount of Pertussis reported in all age groups since June of 2008. The reason for the increase in Pertussis is not clear.

Pertussis should be considered in your differential diagnosis of persons with a cough and cold symptoms. If you suspect a patient has Pertussis I urge you to perform a nasopharyngeal swab for PCR for the detection of Pertussis DNA. Blood tests for the presence of Pertussis are not as reliable as the PCR test or culture.

The preferred treatment of Pertussis is a five day course of azithromycin. Erythromycin can also be used. Erythromycin should be avoided in very small and young children because of the increased risk of pyloric stenosis. Treatment must be started early to have any effect on the duration of symptoms. Prophylactic treatment is especially important for household contacts of children less than one year of age.

If you diagnose a case of Pertussis please report the case to the patient's county of residence.

Please review your patient's immunization status. Please make sure that everyone is up to date on their Pertussis containing vaccine.