



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8434
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, www.cmdhd.org

To: Health Care Providers
From: Robert Graham, DO, MPH, Medical Director
Date: December 19, 2013
Re: Pertussis

The Central Michigan District Health Department has been notified of one confirmed case and three suspected cases of Pertussis (whooping cough) in Clare and Gladwin Counties. The cases have occurred within the last month. We are actively investigating potential additional cases. 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 health department. Please review your patient’s immunization status. Please make sure that everyone is up to date on their Pertussis containing vaccine.

The Central Michigan District Health Department would like to also inform you that our agency will be closed December 24, 2013 through January 1, 2014. During that time period, communicable disease reports will be received by contacting Mari Pat Terpening, RN, BSN, Communicable Disease Supervisor at 989-339-0682. Norm Keon, Epidemiologist, may also be contacted via e-mail at NKeon@cmdhd.org. CMDHD will reopen for normal business operations on January 2, 2014.