



Central Michigan District Health Department
Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



To: Local News Media Outlets

From: Central Michigan District Health Department & District Health Department #10

RE: Pertussis in central Michigan

Release Date: July 2, 2015

During the month of June the Central Michigan District Health Department and District Health Department #10 have received reports of twenty-five confirmed cases of pertussis (also known as Whooping Cough) in residents of the counties of Missaukee, Osceola, and Wexford. These cases are primarily in children fourteen years of age and younger and some adult family members. Missaukee County residents account for sixty percent of these cases, with twenty percent coming from each of the other two counties. Additional cases are likely to be reported.

With the normal summer activities of children (camps, church events, parties) the possibility for children being exposed and/or spreading this illness heightens.

Pertussis starts out like the common cold. The initial symptoms last a week. A cough then develops that can last as long as twelve weeks. This disease is spread via respiratory droplets from coughing. People with pertussis can transmit the germ for four weeks after becoming ill.

The best way to prevent pertussis is to get vaccinated. We recommend that parents review their children's immunization records to be certain they have received all of their immunizations. Children usually receive the vaccine in early infancy; however, adolescents and adults are recommended to get a booster dose to help protect them as they get older.

People that live with someone with pertussis should talk to their doctor about receiving a course of antibiotics. If given early enough, treatment with antibiotics can reduce the damage done by the infection and stop the spread of the germ.

If you have questions about pertussis, please contact your family doctor or your local health department branch office.

Missaukee County
Osceola County
Wexford County

(231) 236-7581
(231) 832-5532 ext. 15
(231) 876-3811

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department and District Health Department #10. Visit our websites at www.cmdhd.org and www.dhd10.org.

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To request an interview for Osceola County, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form. To request an interview for Missaukee or Wexford Counties, please contact Kevin Hughes, Health Officer.