



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 & Hospital Infection Control
From: Robert Graham, DO, MPH, Medical Director
Date: March 21, 2014
Re: Pertussis Update

As of today, the Central Michigan District Health Department has been notified of 21 confirmed, probable and suspect cases in the Mt. Pleasant and Beal City area. The start of this current outbreak dates back to February 28th. Our control efforts are continuing and we are actively investigating all of these persons as well as holding a community immunization clinic on Tuesday, March 25th from 2 – 6 p.m. at the Beal City Schools Media Center.

As a reminder, 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.

Medical guidance for diagnosis, treatment and control can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Pertussis_388979_7.pdf.

The preferred treatment of Pertussis is a five day course of azithromycin. Clarithromycin, Trimethoprim sulfamethoxazole, and Erythromycin are alternatives to azithromycin. 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.

Vaccination continues to be our best method of preventing illness. We encourage you to assess your patient's immunization status, including adults. Vaccination recommendations are as follows:

DtaP 3 doses (at 2 months, 4 months, and 6 months of age)
DtaP 4th dose at age 12 months thru 15 months
DtaP 5th dose at 4 years of age
Tdap 1 dose for adolescents and adults 11 years and up

Please report **suspected** cases of Pertussis to the Central Michigan District Health Department as well as **confirmed** cases of Pertussis. You can report to Mari Pat Terpening in the Mt. Pleasant office at 989-773-5921 extension 8434.