



**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](http://www.cmdhd.org)

To: Health Care Providers  
From: Robert Graham, DO, MPH, Medical Director  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Re: Pertussis

The Central Michigan District Health Department has been notified of two confirmed cases and one suspected case of Pertussis (whooping cough) in Mt. Pleasant and Beal City area. The cases have been diagnosed within the last week. 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. 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.

If you diagnose a case of Pertussis please report the case to the health department. Please report suspected cases of Pertussis to the Central Michigan District Health Department as well as confirmed cases of Pertussis. You can report cases of Pertussis to Mari Pat Terpening in the Mt. Pleasant office at 989-773-5921 extension 8434.