



Genesee County Health Department

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<http://www.gchd.us>

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PERTUSSIS ALERT

The Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) is alerting health care providers that we are still experiencing an **outbreak** of Pertussis. Transmission of Pertussis continues to be observed locally and clusters of cases are being identified in all areas of Genesee County.

We ask that health care providers help to assure proper diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of pertussis. Clinicians should consider pertussis in prolonged cough illnesses (greater than 2 weeks). Michigan's public health laws require that health care providers report all suspected and confirmed cases of pertussis to the local health department. Please call the GCHD at (810) 257-1017 as soon as you **suspect** a case.

The recommended diagnostic tests are culture or PCR of nasopharyngeal (NP) swab (Dacron) or aspirate. Serology and DFA tests are NOT recommended. The Michigan Department of Community Health conducts laboratory testing for pertussis. Clinicians may contact the GCHD at (810) 257-1017 to coordinate testing of specimens.

Recommended treatment is a course of a macrolide antibiotic (5 days azithromycin, or 7 days clarithromycin, or 14 days erythromycin; an alternative is 14 days TMP-SMZ). Household and other close contacts of cases should receive antibiotic prophylaxis within 3 weeks of exposure using the same antibiotics and doses in the treatment recommendations. This treatment should occur regardless of immunization status.

Infants are at highest risk of severe disease and death; older siblings and adults often are the source. Infants and children should receive a pertussis vaccine series (DTaP) as per the U.S. recommended childhood immunization schedule. All doses should be given as close to the recommended ages as possible. A routine pertussis vaccine booster dose (Tdap) is recommended for adolescents and adults, and is especially important for those in contact with infants.

Due to the severity of this outbreak, please call 257-1017 as soon as you suspect you have a case. This will help to expedite identification of all contacts so that treatment can be initiated as soon as possible.

Better Life Through Better Health