



Increase in Whooping Cough Prompts Health Advisory

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For Immediate Release



HEALTH DIVISION

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NEWS RELEASE

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January 24, 2017, Pontiac, Mich. – The [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) and [Oakland County Health Division](#) are issuing a health advisory following an increase in the number of identified [pertussis](#) cases, commonly referred to as whooping cough. Anyone exposed to pertussis and displaying symptoms should be evaluated by a doctor to determine if antibiotics are needed. Infants younger than 12 months are at greatest risk.

“The State of Michigan is reporting an increase in pertussis, especially in childcare and preschool settings where children are not old enough to have received the complete five doses of vaccine to be fully immunized,” said Kathy Forzley, health officer at the Health Division. “Antibiotics are effective in treating pertussis symptoms as well as reduce the risk of a person who has been exposed to pertussis from spreading the disease to others.”

Infants and children who have not been fully vaccinated against pertussis are at a

higher risk of developing severe illness. To be fully immunized, doses are given at 2, 4, 6, and 15 months. The last dose is given at 4 years old.

Pertussis is a very contagious disease that usually starts with cold-like symptoms and maybe a mild cough or fever. After 1 to 2 weeks, severe coughing can begin. Pertussis can cause violent and rapid coughing, over and over, until the air is gone from the lungs and people are forced to inhale with a loud "whooping" sound. In infants, the cough can be minimal or not even there. Other symptoms include:

- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Sneezing
- Red, watery eyes
- Mild fever
- Dry cough

People infected with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others who then breathe in the bacteria. Pertussis is most contagious during the first two weeks of illness.

Most local physician offices carry the pertussis vaccine. The vaccine is also available at both Health Division walk-in clinics in Pontiac and Southfield. Hours are Noon to 8:00 p.m. on Mondays and 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

[Payment options](#) include cash, credit (Visa, MasterCard), Medicare and/or Medicaid, and some other insurance. If you have insurance, check with your health care provider for possible benefit coverage. Credit card fees apply. Please bring picture identification and all insurance cards.

Health Division offices are located at the following addresses:

- North Oakland Health Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East, Pontiac
- South Oakland Health Center, 27725 Greenfield Road, Southfield

The pertussis vaccine does not treat current symptoms, but helps prevent the disease.

For more information about pertussis, visit www.oakgov.com/health or contact the Nurse on Call at 800-848-5533, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. You can also follow the Health Division on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @publichealthOC for up-to-date public health information.



NURSE ON CALL PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION HOTLINE
800.848.5533 NOC@OAKGOV.COM
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