



Website: www.dhd10.org
Facebook: healthdept10

Locations:

Crawford County Office
501 Norway Street
Suite #1
Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 348-7800

Kalkaska County Office
625 Courthouse Drive
Kalkaska, MI 49646
(231) 258-8669

Lake County Office
5681 S. M-37
Baldwin, MI 49304
(231) 745-4663

Manistee County Office
385 Third Street
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-3595

Mason County Office
916 Diana Street
Ludington, MI 49431
(231) 845-7381

Mecosta County Office
14485 Northland Drive
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 592-0130

Missaukee County Office
6180 W. Sanborn Road
Suite #1
Lake City, MI 49651
(231) 839-7167

Newaygo County Office
1049 Newell Street
White Cloud, MI 49349
(231) 689-7300

Oceana County Office
3986 N Oceana Drive
Hart, MI 49420
(231) 873-2193

Wexford County Office
521 Cobbs Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231) 775-9942

December 4, 2017

Dear Church Member,

A member of your church has been diagnosed with pertussis, also known as whooping cough. This is a contagious illness and we wish to provide you with some important information.

Pertussis can be a very serious illness, especially in the very young who haven't had the opportunity to be completely protected through immunization. The disease is caused by a bacteria that is spread through sneezing and coughing. The time between exposure to the bacteria and disease symptoms is usually between 7 - 10 days, but in rare cases it can take up to 3 weeks.

In the early stage of illness, pertussis can resemble a common cold. Symptoms include sneezing, runny nose, mild dry cough and low-grade fever. The disease is most contagious at this time. After about 1 to 2 weeks, more serious "coughing spells" develop that can last for more than a minute and result in difficulty breathing. At the end of a coughing spell, the child may make a high pitched "whooping" sound as they try to catch their breath. Sometimes the coughing will cause vomiting. Coughing in this latter stage of pertussis tends to be worse at night. Between spells, the child usually feels well.

Fortunately, vaccinations against pertussis have made it a rare disease. The majority of children have been protected against it through their routine childhood immunizations. However, protection from the vaccine tends to fade over time. If your child is older than 10, they may need to receive a booster vaccine.

Please check the immunization records of your family members and yourself that attend church. All children should receive 5 doses of a pertussis containing vaccine (DTaP) beginning at 2 months of age, with the fifth dose given prior to entering school at age 4-6 years. A booster dose of another pertussis containing vaccine (Tdap) is recommended after the age of 10 years due to waning immunity and is available for older children and adults. If anyone in your family is not fully protected against pertussis please contact your doctor or local health department to have them immunized.

Pertussis can be treated with antibiotics if detected early or before the disease has started. If anyone in your family does develop any of the symptoms described above, **stay at home from work, daycare, or school** and contact your doctor immediately.

Appointments for vaccination against whooping cough may be made by calling your Medical Provider or Local Health Department at the number listed to the left. For additional information you may call your Local Health Department or go to <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/> or http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_4914-240419--_00.html#individuals_fam.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Morse, M.D.

Medical Director

District Health Department #10