



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

08/15/2024

CONTACT:

Kelly Adkins

kadkins@vbcassdhd.org

Health Advisory: Pertussis Cases Confirmed in District

Lawrence, MI – August 15, 2024 The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department (VBCDHD) has issued a health advisory following the confirmation of multiple cases of a pertussis (whooping cough) in the jurisdiction. Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. It spreads through direct contact or airborne droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze.

Dr. Larry Wile, Medical Director for the health department, states, "It is important that families and medical providers consider pertussis (whooping cough) as a potential cause of any cold or cough symptoms this summer and fall. Early diagnosis and treatment, along with staying up to date on the pertussis vaccine, can help prevent severe complications, hospitalizations, and the spread of this illness to loved ones."

Important Information

Symptoms:

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, begin with cold-like symptoms, usually progressing to severe coughing spells. Babies and young children may not cough but may show signs and symptoms of difficulty breathing.

Treatment:

Stay home and seek medical attention if symptoms arise. Antibiotics can reduce symptom severity in those infected with pertussis and help prevent disease in those exposed to a sick person.

Prevention:

Vaccination is extremely helpful. It is recommended that children receive their full series of DTaP vaccine, and teens and adults get a Tdap booster every 10 years. Pregnant women are advised to get a Tdap vaccine with each pregnancy to help protect their babies.



Van Buren/Cass District
Health Department

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

We encourage everyone to check their family's vaccination records and contact a healthcare provider or the health department for any updates.

Contact Information:

For more details, visit the [CDC's Pertussis Page](#) or contact the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department at 269-621-3143.

About Van Buren/Cass District Health Department:

The Van Buren/Cass District Health Department is dedicated to improving public health through preventive measures, education, and community services. For more information visit VBCDHD website at www.vbcassdhd.org.

###