



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KILL DATE: (August 3, 2009)**

### **Livingston County Pertussis Alert**

HOWELL, Michigan. - July 27, 2009 (Livingston County Department of Public Health) -

Between June 29, 2009 and July 24, 2009, the Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) has identified eight confirmed cases of pertussis in Livingston County. Six cases were children between the ages of 5 and 17, and five of the children had not previously been vaccinated against this disease. The Health Department is informing the community of this recent outbreak and advising all concerned individuals to check their immunization status, as well as their children's.

Pertussis is a highly communicable, vaccine-preventable disease that lasts for many weeks and is typically manifested in children with spasms of severe coughing, whooping, and associated vomiting. In the United States, the incidence of pertussis has increased steadily since the 1980s. Major complications are most common among infants and young children, and most deaths occur among unvaccinated children or children too young to be vaccinated.

Dr. Donald Lawrenchuk, LCDPH Medical Director, reminds us that pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease. This recent outbreak highlights the need to ensure all children and adults are up-to-date with their vaccinations. Individuals should contact their health care provider to receive a booster dose of the combination vaccine Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) which was licensed in 2005.

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**Recommendations include:**

- Five doses of DTaP for children under seven years of age.
- A single dose of Tdap is recommended for individuals 11-64 years of age, since pertussis immunity wanes five to ten years after the last dose of pertussis vaccine.

For a pertussis fact sheet, go to [www.lchd.org](http://www.lchd.org). Both DTaP and Tdap are available through the immunization clinic at the Livingston County Department of Public Health, 2300 E. Grand River, Howell. Clinic hours are on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. with extended hours until 7 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month. Please bring all available immunization records. There is an administration fee for immunizations, and the cost of the vaccine may be added depending on insurance status. No child will be denied state required immunizations due to inability to pay. Call (517) 546-9850 for more information.

**CONTACT:**

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