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# OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

## St. Clair County Health Department

2024

SCCHD-03

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TO: St. Clair County Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency Departments, Walk-In Clinics, Long Term Care Facilities, Neurologists, ENT's, Pulmonology, OB/GYN, and Pediatricians

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### **PERTUSSIS INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS AND CLINICIANS:**

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) would like to encourage providers to keep Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in their diagnosis differentials. Pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease that can be very serious especially to infants, pregnant persons, and immunocompromised individuals. Cases of vaccine preventable diseases such as Pertussis have continued to be seen within St. Clair County.

#### **Clinical Case Definition:**

In the absence of more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting  $\geq 2$  weeks with one or more of the following:

- Paroxysms of coughing, or
- Inspiratory "whoop," or
- Post-tussive vomiting, or
- Apnea (with or without cyanosis)

#### **Laboratory Confirmation:**

- Isolation of *Bordetella pertussis* from a clinical specimen, or
- Positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay for *Bordetella pertussis*
- **Appropriate specimens for testing are nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs or aspirates.** Whenever possible, suspected cases of pertussis should have a NP swab or NP aspirate obtained for bacterial culture or PCR analysis.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Report **suspect** cases **immediately** to SCCHD
- Do not delay appropriate antimicrobial treatment while waiting for laboratory results if there is no alternative diagnosis.
- Cases should receive antimicrobial treatment to limit spread of disease to others and should be excluded and isolated from group activity settings such as schools, daycares, work, etc. until they have received at least 5 days of an appropriate course of antibiotics for pertussis.
- Identify exposed close contacts, including household contacts, child care contacts, etc.
- Administer course of antibiotics to close contacts within three weeks of exposure, especially in high risk settings.
- Do not rule out diagnosis of pertussis based on immunization status.
- Strongly recommend Pertussis-containing vaccines as well as all other ACIP recommended vaccines.
- Have testing kits available and be knowledgeable on specimen collection process.

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect/actual cases at (810) 987-5300.