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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Providers,
Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians Walk-in
Clinics

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PSITTACOSIS AWARENESS

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) is currently investigating a possible widespread exposure to psittacosis. In humans this condition is usually mild or moderate in presentation; however, it can be severe, especially in untreated elderly persons. Please consider this diagnosis and testing for symptomatic persons with exposure to birds.

Clinical Characteristics:

- Acute disease with symptomatic presentations and respiratory symptoms
- Incubation period from 1-4 weeks
- Fever
- Headache
- Myalgia
- Cough

Laboratory confirmation:

- Coordinate specimen submission with SCCHD
- Acceptable specimens: Nasopharyngeal (NP) and/or Oropharyngeal (OP) swabs, and any lower respiratory tract specimen including bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and sputum
- Swabs should be collected in universal transport medium (viral transport medium)
- Specimens can be kept refrigerated if shipped less than 72 hours of collection; otherwise they should be kept frozen

Recommendations:

- Consider diagnosis in patients presenting with symptoms and history of exposure to birds
- Report suspect or confirmed cases to SCCHD
- Educate coughing patients to use good cough etiquette

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect cases (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the "After Hours Emergency Contact List" or www.scchealth.co for after-hours contact.