



What is Pertussis?

- A highly contagious respiratory disease caused by bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis*. Commonly referred to as whooping cough. It is commonly misdiagnosed and under-diagnosed. Anyone can get Pertussis but it is more severe in children, and deadly to infants.

What are symptoms that could occur?

- | <u>First symptoms</u> | <u>1-2 weeks after first signs</u> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Runny nose• Nasal congestion• Sneezing• Red, watery eyes• Mild fever• Dry cough | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cough worsens• Uncontrollable cough• Vomiting while coughing• Extreme fatigue• Red or blue face• Cough ends with high pitch 'whoop' sound |

How is it spread?

- Spread through the air when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or speaks and another person breathes in the droplets
- Person usually infects others before "Whooping" stage begins
- Symptoms usually begin 7 – 10 days after exposure

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation including laboratory work; hospitalization may be required in severe cases
- Antibiotics may be given to persons exposed to prevent disease
- In those with symptoms, antibiotics may shorten duration of disease

Are there complications?

- Can include lack of oxygen, apnea (not breathing), pneumonia, seizures, encephalopathy (swelling of the brain), malnutrition, and death in infants with small airways

How can Pertussis be prevented?

- Vaccine is very effective in preventing disease (Tdap and DTaP)
- Give antibiotics to those exposed
- Practice good hand-washing technique and cover mouth with tissue when coughing or sneezing

Should the individual be isolated?

- The individual should be kept away from other people; IMMEDIATELY notify the Genesee County Health Department at **257-1017** of a reported or suspected case

When can the individual return to the general population?

- Upon recovery with a minimum of 21 days after development of violent cough
- Or upon completion of 5 days of appropriate antibiotics

Should facilities do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017