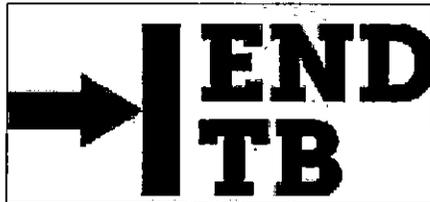


## Moore Epi - Notes

A quarterly newsletter for healthcare providers in Moore County



### Testing for Pertussis

Determining who has pertussis (whooping cough) can be difficult, that's why it's important to test for pertussis with a **Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab** or aspirate with **culture**. A properly obtained NP or aspirate is essential for optimal accuracy and results.

Once an NP swab has been collected it should be directly plated or immediately placed into transport medium. NP aspirates should be dispensed and plated within 24 hours of collection. The same specimen can be used both for culture and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). With PCR, the most rapid test, the specimen should ideally be collected during the first 3 weeks of illness, but may provide accurate results for up to 4 weeks. Culture has better specificity, and can take up to 7 days to obtain results, and the specimen ideally should be collected during the first 2 weeks of illness.

Serologic testing is not the recommended method of testing for pertussis.

### Confirmed Reportable Cases

The following confirmed/probable cases of disease were reported by Moore during the 1st quarter of 2016

Chlamydia: 68  
Gonorrhea: 16  
Non-gonococcal urethritis: 1  
TB, Latent: 8  
Campylobacter: 2  
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease: 1  
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Probable: 1

The number of Tuberculosis (TB) cases has increased this year for the first time in 23 years. According to preliminary data from CDC National TB Surveillance, a total of 9,563 cases of TB were reported in the United States. Of these cases, 6,335 occurred among persons born outside of the United States. In 2015, a total 29 states and the District of Columbia each reported an increase in TB cases.

Progress toward TB elimination has stopped. In order to combat TB, increased attention needs to be made in the diagnosis and treatment of latent TB infection, especially in persons who have lived in areas where TB is more common. It is estimated that up to 13 million people living within the US have latent TB infection, and more than 85% of current cases are believed to be associated with longstanding untreated latent TB infection; a majority of these individuals being born outside of the US.

Together, we can work together to end TB!

**Moore County Health Department:**  
910-947-3300

**Confidential fax:**  
910-947-2480

**Communicable Disease Nurse fax:**  
910-947-2480

**After Hours/Weekend Reporting:**  
910-947-2911 (Ask to have the Health Director or his designee paged.)

*Please remember to report communicable diseases to the Health Department. Accurate reporting helps to stop the spread of disease and helps us to gain knowledge about the health of our community.*

*Moore County Health Department is committed to ensuring county healthcare providers access to countywide disease data summaries to inform patient care.*