

County of Moore
Department of Health
705 Pinehurst Avenue • P.O. Box 279
Carthage, North Carolina 28327

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 10, 2012

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Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Cases in Moore County, North Carolina

The Moore County Health Department is currently responding to one laboratory confirmed and two probable cases of Pertussis. Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory disease characterized by severe coughing, "coughing fits". Infants, children and the elderly are at greatest risk for this disease, although Pertussis can affect people of any age.

Symptoms of Pertussis:

1. Usually appear between 6-21 days (average 7-10) after exposure to an infected person.
2. Usually starts with cold symptoms (runny nose, cough) followed by episodes of severe coughing that can last 1-2 months.
3. Vomiting may occur after coughing spells.
4. The person may look and feel healthy between coughing episodes.
5. Immunized school children, teenagers, and adults have milder symptoms than young children.

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"To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury."
<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>

Environmental Health
Telephone: 910-947-6283
Fax: 910-947-5127

Animal Center
Telephone: 910-947-2858
Fax: 910-947-5952

WIC
Telephone: 910-947-2797
Appointments: 910-947-3271
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How Pertussis is spread:

1. Pertussis is spread to close contacts through droplets from the mouth and nose when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
2. Persons treated with antibiotics are contagious until the appropriate antibiotic treatment is completed.

How can Pertussis be prevented?

1. Routine immunization is the best preventive measure.
2. Stay home when you are sick.
3. Cover your mouth when coughing.
4. Wash your hands.
5. Contact your health care provider if you live with, or have had close contact with, someone who has Pertussis. You may need to take antibiotics.

For a Pertussis Fact Sheet visit the Health Department website at www.moorecountync.gov/health.

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