



crisis management: strategies for simultaneously managing two high profile outbreaks

Grand Traverse County Health Department

Wendy Hirschenberger, MPH, CPHA
Health Officer

Jodi Kelly MSN, RN
Deputy Health Officer
Director of Community Health

objectives

- to identify best practice strategies for managing a county-wide Pertussis outbreak
- to identify best practice strategies for managing Measles cases in a multi-county outbreak
- to identify operational strategies used during outbreaks in order implement communicable disease prevention strategies and build the architecture for outbreak preparedness

outbreak 1: pertussis

Whooping Cough

This infection causes uncontrollable and violent bouts of cough leading to extreme difficulty in breathing.

ahhhhhheggggghhhhh
Whooping
ahhhhhheggggghhhhh
Whooping
ahhhhhheggggghhhhh

pertussis outbreak- statistics

- 28,660 cases in US in 2014
 - 1424 in Michigan 2014 (43% increase)
 - 91 cases in Grand Traverse County 2014
 - 142 probable Pertussis cases
 - 13 Parapertussis cases
- average age 11.5 years
 - age range 4 months to 44 years
 - 22 schools, preschools, daycares



pertussis outbreak- timeline

October 21, 2014 Index Case

- Grand Traverse Academy teacher
- prophylaxis offered to entire classroom, family, close contacts

November 4, 2014 2nd Wave

- father of child from classroom failed to have child prophylaxed
- all children in family unvaccinated; 4 grades same school
- prophylaxis entire school; 1200 students and teachers; 18% waiver rate



pertussis outbreak- timeline

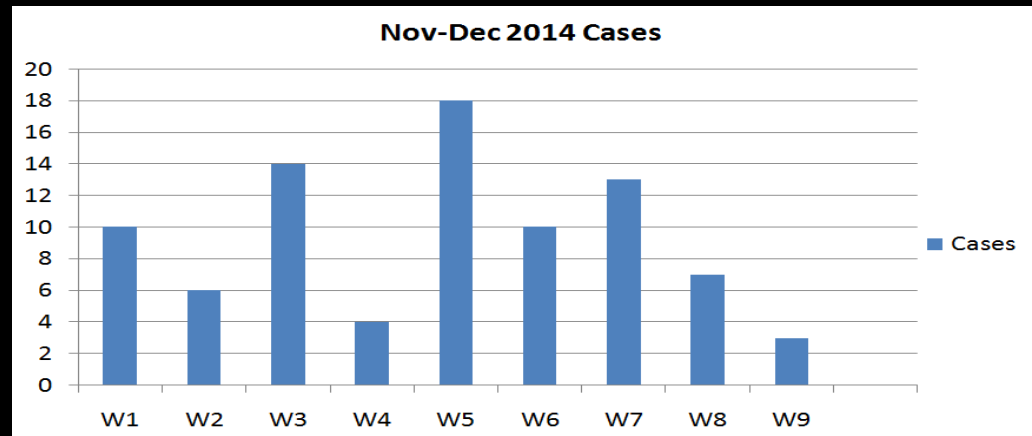
by November 12, 2014

- 13 confirmed cases
 - 10 Academy
 - home schooler
 - 4 month old
- first Traverse City Area Public Schools; waiver rate 10%

by November 19, 2014

- 17 additional confirmed cases
 - last of the Academy cases
 - 12 classrooms in 10 buildings

by First Week of December----Peaked



pertussis outbreak- progression

pertussis hotline

- 4380 calls

prescriptions

- 1450

case investigations

- 1 case/2-3months
- 7 cases/day
- transmission sites of risk

vaccination readiness

- Tdap and flu clinics

epidemiological updates

- 6-7% increase in Tdap rates ages 13 and older post outbreak



pertussis- medical guidance

recommended post exposure prophylaxis

- household members
- living with infants under 12 months
- living with immune-compromised



why entire academy?

- multiple confirmed and linked cases from 2 waves of positive tests separated by 2 week incubation period

cases in other schools

- hand to mouth contact
- cautious approach to a preschool cut-off

re-prophylaxis

parapertussis



pertussis- staffing

resource allocation & reassignments

- communicable disease coverage
- hotline coverage
- weekend and holiday coverage
- clerical support
- case investigations-15 household and close contacts

team concept

- all hands on deck approach: be flexible
- know your employee's strengths
- allow everyone to rotate and evaluate
- narrow team by experience and comfort
- daily pertussis team management
- daily assignments
- staff scheduled vacations
- morning huddles to review status
- everyone needs to take a break



pertussis- COMMUNITY RESPONSE

strategies for partnering

- principals, school nurse, administrative assistants
 - 280 calls and emails
 - 72 school letters to parents
 - holiday coverage
- physician practice collaboration
 - 30 calls and emails
 - 12 physician health alerts
- pharmacy readiness
 - prophylaxis
 - Tdap
 - direct bill

pertussis ah-has

- involve emergency preparedness coordinator early
- inform pharmacies
- give local physicians a “heads up”
- maintain up-to-date list of providers, pharmacies and school contacts
- designate outbreak work area
- provide team members school letters and press releases
- lead with kindness and calmness, trust and be honest
- embrace the opportunity to work together for a common goal: to stop the spread!

measles



outbreak 2: measles

measles cases added to a busy 2014

- a *highly contagious* vaccine preventable disease with at least 3 days of rash AND a fever of at least 101 AND cough, runny nose OR conjunctivitis

two cases

- unvaccinated young adult siblings
- traveled to the Philippines
- currently a large measles outbreak in the Philippines

initially diagnosis - typhoid fever



measles - statistics

typhoid fever vs. measles

- related to international travel
- similar incubation period
- similar clinical presentation
 - fever, GI, headache, rash

incidence (CDC)

- typhoid fever (*salmonella typhi*)
 - estimated 5,700 cases of typhoid fever occur annually in U.S., mostly among travelers.
 - estimated 2.1 million cases of typhoid fever and 200,000 deaths occur worldwide
- measles
 - since 2000, the number of cases in the U.S. has ranged from 37 in 2004 to 668 in 2014.
 - estimated 20 million people become infected with measles worldwide each year, with 146,000 deaths



measles outbreak- statistics

history - measles cases

- Grand Traverse County - 4 cases in 1989
- Leelanau County - 1 case in 1985
- Michigan - 28 cases since 2000
- Grand Traverse & Leelanau Counties- all 5 Michigan cases in 2014

Measles was off everyone's radar in Grand Traverse County!

WARNING

MEASLES

All persons are forbidden to enter or leave these premises without the permission of the HEALTH OFFICER under PENALTY OF THE LAW.

This notice is posted in compliance with the SANITARY CODE OF CONNECTICUT and must not be removed without permission of the HEALTH OFFICER.

Form D-1-M _____ Health Officer.

measles outbreak- timeline

- 11/18 return from Philippines
- 11/22 unvaccinated family of 3
- 11/23 urgent care diarrhea/sore throat/nausea/vomiting
- 11/24 plastic surgery office
- 11/26 emergency room and admission diarrhea and rash
health department alerted of typhoid fever
- 11/26 unvaccinated children attend ½ school day
- 11/28 added rule out measles to diagnosis
- 11/29 2 of 3 family members start to show signs and symptoms
- 12/1 lab confirmed measles and health department notified
- 12/1 still hospitalized, discharged home late pm
- 12/2 public health nurse home visit first thing
inpatient



measles outbreak- progression

followed 2014 measles investigation guidelines

grand traverse county close contacts

- 2 travel companions
- 2 roommates
- sibling to the cases and his children
- plastic surgeon office
- urgent care waiting room
- emergency room waiting room
- 2 workers in home

Leelanau county close contacts

- children's mom
- dad's girlfriend
- school
- under vaccinated family of 4

heightened awareness & concern



measles- staffing

measles AND pertussis!!!

- two nurses were assigned to measles
- two directors, each leading an outbreak team
- pertussis outbreak continued
- minimal staffing for all other public health programs
- health department programs and services were continually prioritized



measles- important dates

December 19th

- notification received to monitor a low, but no risk traveler from an Ebola affected Country

December 21st

- no new cases linked to Grand Traverse

December 31st

- no new cases linked to Leelanau cases

January 2015

- pertussis cases slowed significantly

January 2015

- influenza was in full force



public health never...ever a dull moment!!!

These 2 outbreaks have changed how we do things.

measles – challenges, lessons learned, and pats-on-the-back

reporting

- making measles cases the priority
- home visits

communication

- team work with Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department
- physician health alerts
- divide and conquer outbreak management responsibilities

provider education

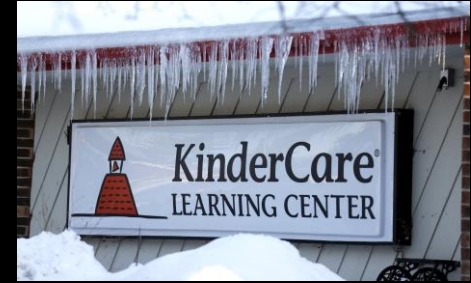
- Ebola preparedness paid off
- masking travelers in the emergency room
- guidance from Disneyland outbreak

community education

verifying immunity and labs

- facilitating quick titres

prophylaxis



outbreak preparedness

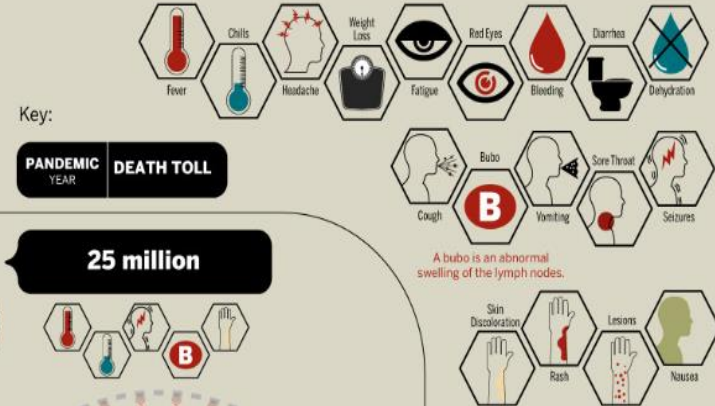
OUTBREAK

Deadliest Pandemics in History

Because a virus doesn't care about state lines or national borders, it can wipe out millions and span multiple continents rapidly. Here is a look at the infectious diseases the world has battled throughout history.

What is a Pandemic?

Derived from the Greek word *pandemos* meaning "pertaining to all people," a pandemic is a widespread disease that affects humans over a wide geographic area.



Honorable Mentions

Although the following viruses do not have a figure for total amount of lives claimed, they continue to terrorize various areas around the world.

MALARIA 1600 - Today

Common Symptoms

Chills, Headache, Fever, Jaundice, Muscle Pain, Nausea, Vomiting, Seizures

Death Toll

According to the World Health Organization's 2010 "World Malaria Report," an estimated 781,000 people are killed by the virus every year.

TUBERCULOSIS 700 BC - Today

Common Symptoms

Chest Pain, Cough, Fever, Chills, Fatigue

Death Toll

There are almost 2 million tuberculosis-related deaths worldwide every year.

YELLOW FEVER 16th Century - Today

Common Symptoms

Bleeding, Fever, Nausea, Vomiting, Delirium, Seizures, Jaundice

Death Toll

Worldwide, 30,000 deaths are caused by the infection every year.

Ring Around the Rosie, a Pocket Full of Plague

Legend says the Black Death plague inspired the children's rhyme "Ring Around The Rosy," which alluded to the rash-like rings and ashes of the deceased victims.

outbreak operational strategies

Incident Command

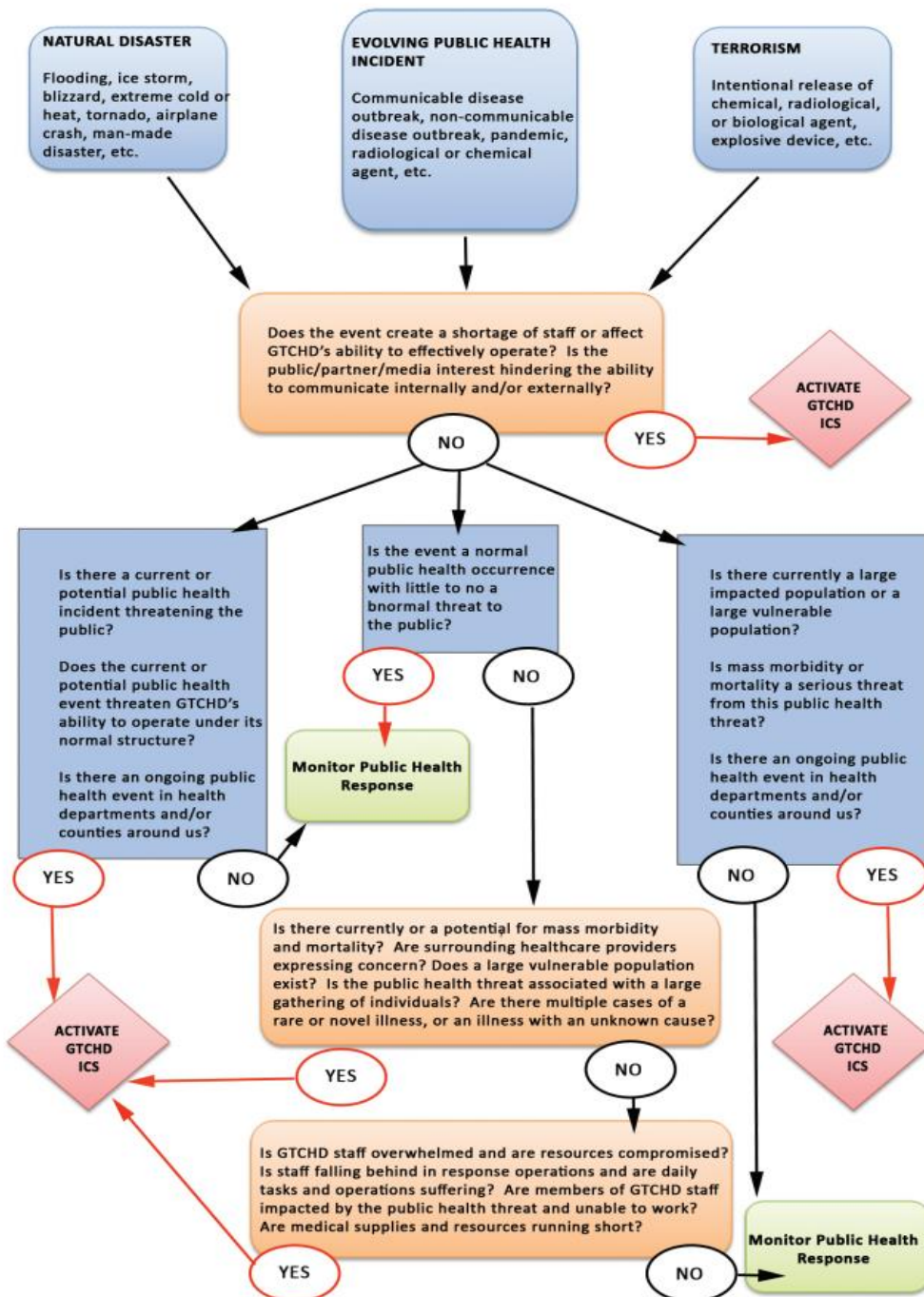
- ☐ activate?
- ☐ structure

Using the Logic Model

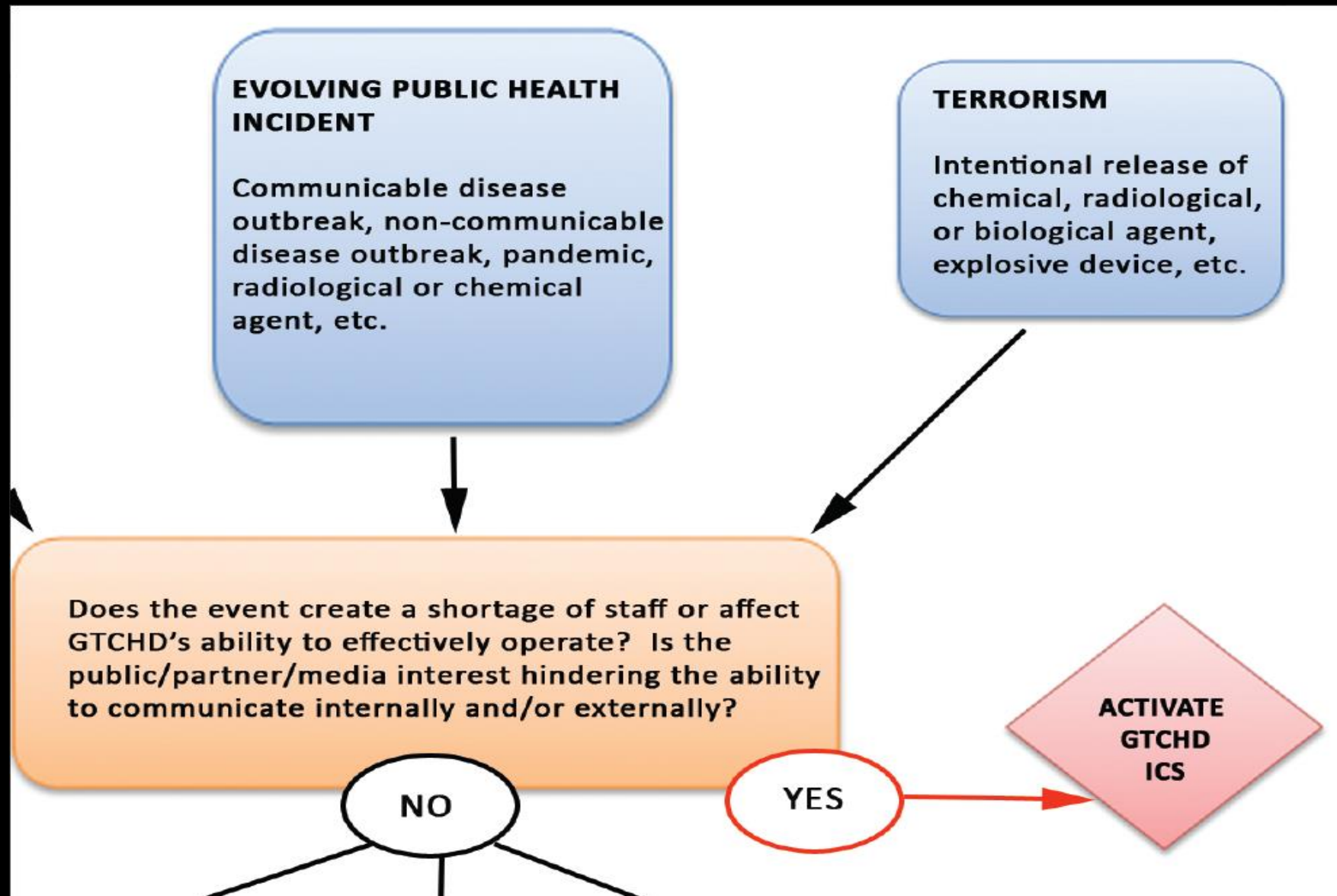
- ☐ event / problem
- ☐ criteria / judgment
- ☐ level of activation

Why implement?

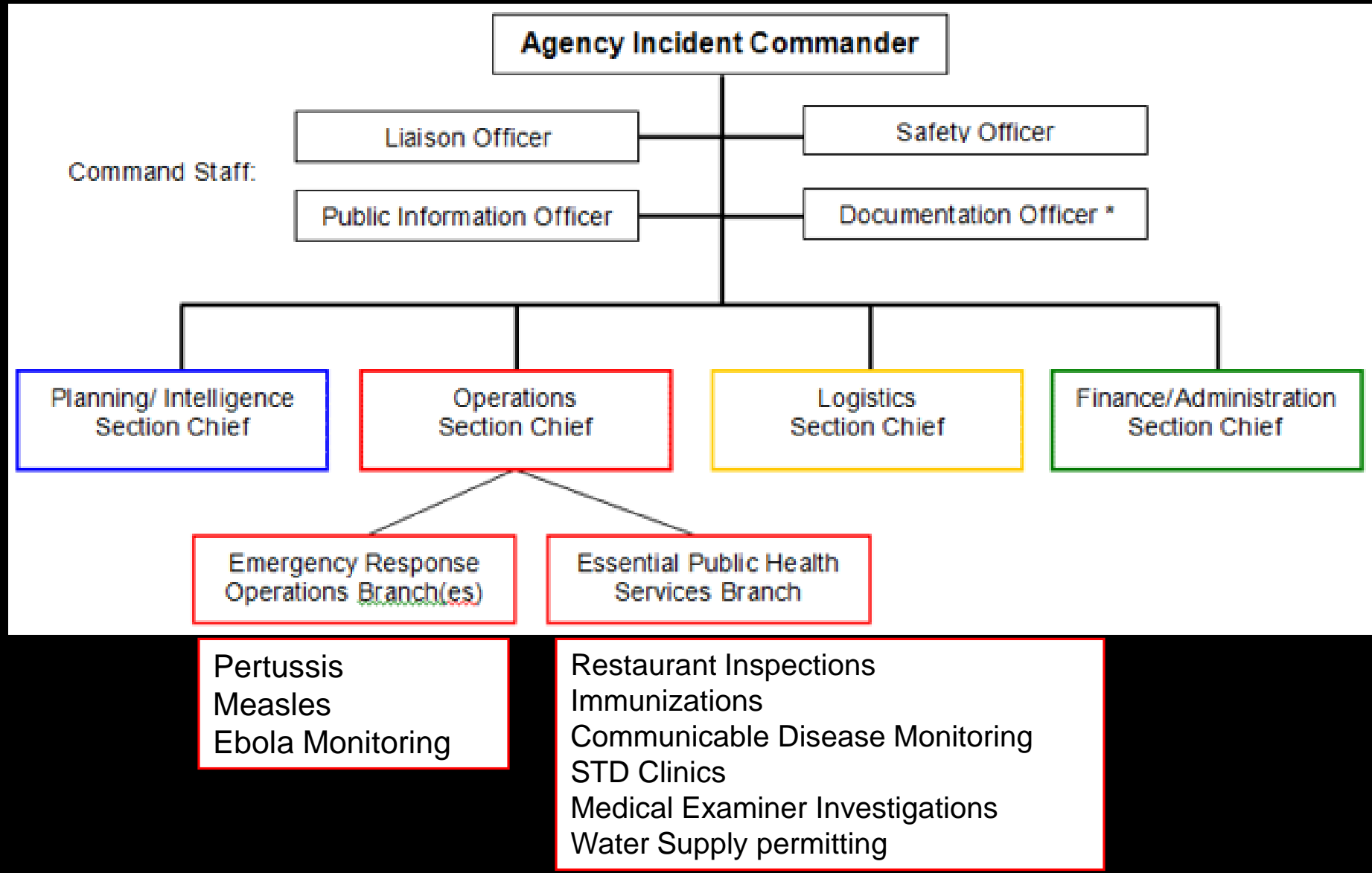
- ☐ effective span of control at all levels
- ☐ effective use of resources/staff



outbreak operational strategies



outbreak operational strategies



outbreak operational strategies



outbreak operational strategies

What is the Hepatitis A virus?

- An acute virus that causes liver swelling and damage
- People usually start to feel badly 2 to 6 weeks after infection
- Can range in severity
- Some only experience mild flulike for several weeks
- Some, especially those with pre-existing liver conditions, can become very sick for many months and may experience liver failure

Hepatitis A virus after exposure to:

- Eating contaminated food or water
- Between sexual partners, or
- Through close personal contact while living with or visiting guests

On average it takes about a month after you have been exposed to develop symptoms. You will have symptoms in the 1-2 weeks before you even develop symptoms and have also got job

Symptoms of Hepatitis A

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and/or eyes)
- Fatigue
- Dark urine
- Dark stool
- Clay or pale-colored stools

Hepatitis A virus exposure at Michigan's Renaissance Festival - Short Prophylaxis Window

Public Health partners in Oakland County strongly recommends those who attended and worked the Renaissance Festival on September 1, 2nd, or 3rd get a hepatitis A vaccine if they have not been vaccinated.

Due to this, Grand Traverse County Health Department will be offering walk in vaccination clinic Saturday from 10-2 pm

Because vaccination can prevent the disease if given within 14 days after potential exposure, the Grand Traverse County Health Department is offering an additional walk in hepatitis A vaccination clinic on Saturday, September 13th from 10:00am - 5:00pm.

If individuals have attended and/or worked for the festival in Holly, MI and have not been vaccinated for hepatitis A, please visit our Saturday clinic. The general public who is in need of the hepatitis A vaccine, are also welcome.

Not exposed prophylaxis (vaccination) must be administered within 14 days of exposure

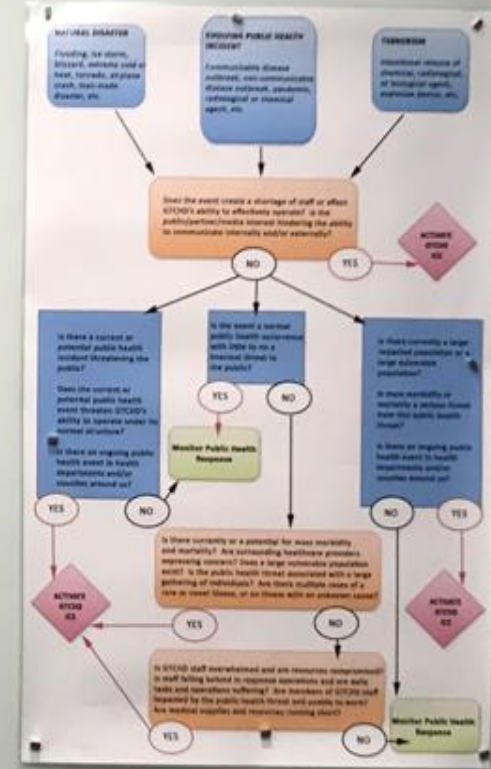
Those who attended at:

- September 1 can be protected if they receive vaccination by Saturday, September 15.
- September 2 can be protected if they receive vaccination by Sunday, September 16.
- September 3 can be protected if they receive vaccination by Monday, September 17.

Walk in during weekdays also 9-4:30

From August 1st 2016 Michigan has experienced the largest hepatitis A outbreak in the country

- 686 confirmed cases
- 10% have been hospitalized
- 28 deaths occurred, with most recent last week



Agency Incident
Commander
Wendy
Hirschberger

Liaison Officer
Michael
Lahey

Medical Officer
Dr. Michael Collins

Public Information
Officer
Rose Ann
Davis

Planning Section Chief
Dan
Thorell

Operations Section Chief
Jodi
Kelly

Logistics Section Chief
Michael
Lahey

Finance Section Chief
Marissa
Milliron

Emergency Response
Branch
Erin
Johnson

Essential Public Health
Services Branch
Lori
Wesolowski

Vaccination Activity
Branch
Sheila
Corner

Outreach Branch
Rose Ann
Davis

outbreak operational strategies

Early & Consistent engagement of key partners:

- Medical Providers & Pharmacies
- Schools
- Media & Public
- Policy Makers / Board

HOW TO COMMUNICATE IN A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Source: CDC's Crisis/Emergency Risk Communication Manual: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/CERC>



outbreak communication- providers



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH
2600 LaFranier Rd, Ste A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6111

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6051

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2600 LaFranier Road, Ste A
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6059

ANIMAL CONTROL
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6080

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT- UPDATE 12/18/14

Notification of Disease or Significant Health Event

From: Michael P Collins, MD, MS, Medical Director

Wendy S Trute, MPH, CPHA, Health Officer

Greetings of the Season- the infectious disease season that is! We have reached a new milestone today- 70 pertussis cases in Grand Traverse County and 14 parapertussis cases as well. There are now 19 schools in the county with students ill from these diseases... In addition to influenza, which has hit the area hard recently, and the normal winter viral bugs that circulate. There are many more northern Michigan counties who now have Pertussis cases as well. Our hotline has been busy, with over 3750 calls to date (and counting)!

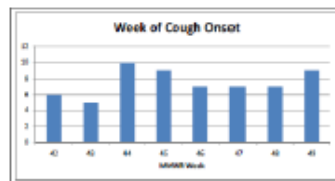
Some good news regarding the measles cases- we are approaching December 21st, which is the date determines if there will be any further spread from the Grand Traverse County index cases. As of today, we have only seen the additional 3 Leelanau County cases as a result of contact the index cases due to quick and diligent case investigation of public health staff. We have followed up on all exposures and worked closely with the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department on their case investigation as well, as we know the exposures don't stop at county lines. December 31st, is the date for where we can all breathe a sigh of relief that there are no more cases of Measles in the area due exposure to the Leelanau cases. Many of us in public health and primary care offices will ring in the New Year with extra enthusiasm for having made it through this challenging end to 2014. Both dates are important milestones for our community.

Even though we haven't talked much about Ebola in these health alerts the past few months, the Ebola preparedness did help prevent a broader exposure to the Measles cases. When the index cases went to the ER at Munson, they were asked the two screening questions about travel to other countries and respiratory symptoms. Because they said yes to both, they were immediately masked and brought to an isolation room, thus preventing many in the ER from being exposed.

Some Epidemiologic Pertussis Analysis that might be of interest to you:

- 55% of the confirmed cases were up-to-date on their pertussis vaccinations... (there's more the story)
 - However, the mean and median age at diagnosis for this group is 10.4 and 10 - right at the age where they are due for a booster and their previous Tdap is at its lowest effectiveness.
 - Clearly there is room for improvement in the development of a better vaccine for Pertussis; but our anecdotal data on those cases we have been able to follow-up with who were vaccinated is that they were milder cases (as we would expect).
- Age range of cases is 3 months to 44 years of age; 45% of the cases are Male, 55% female

| Symptoms | % |
|----------------------|-----|
| Cough | 98% |
| Paroxysmal Cough | 71% |
| Whoop | 8% |
| Posttussive Vomiting | 26% |
| Apnea | 8% |



Blair Elementary- 1 Parapertussis; age 5, high risk household contact prophylaxed

Children's House Montessori- 4 Parapertussis cases (3 GT County cases); ages 3 ½ to 4 ½

Courtade Elementary School- 4 cases 5th graders; household contacts and close contacts prophylaxed

East Middle School- 1 case; 6th grader; household contacts and close contacts prophylaxed

Eik Rapids Middle School- 1 case; GT County resident; household contacts and close contacts prophylaxed

Eik Rapids High School- 1 case; 12th grader, GT County resident; household contacts and close contacts prophylaxed

Grand Traverse Academy- 12 confirmed cases; (139 probable cases); (Initial confirmed case was a Leelanau County resident); School closure was due to absenteeism, not Health Department ordered.

Interlochen Elementary School- 2 cases (1 GT Case, 1 Benzie County); 1st/2nd grade class entire class prophylaxed

Kingsley Schools- 5 cases (4 GT County, 1 Wexford); 4th grade, 6th grade, 9th grade, (3 cases in same family linked to a 19 month old community case); 12th grader- All close contacts to case prophylaxed

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School- 1 case; 6th grader- All close contacts to case prophylaxed

TCAPS Montessori School- 3 Parapertussis cases; pre-school/kinderqarten split class;

TC West Middle School- 4 cases; 6th graders (3 GT Case, 1 Benzie County); All close contacts to case prophylaxed

TC West High School- 4 cases (3 GT, 1 Benzie); 10th and 12th Grades; All close contacts to case prophylaxed

Trinity Lutheran School- 1 case; 3rd Grader at Trinity Lutheran school; household contacts and close contacts only prophylaxed; School closed due to weather, not due to pertussis or health department direction

Westwoods Elementary School- 15 cases (11 Grand Traverse County, 4 Benzie County); pre-school, kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade

Other community cases- 7 Pertussis cases, 1 Parapertussis

- Northwestern Michigan College student
- 4 month old infant
- 9 month old infant
- Kingsley home schooled child
- Kingsley 19 month old
- 43 year old adult
- 3 year old who attends Wooden Pony Pre-school - Parapertussis

The Health Department continues to staff the Pertussis Hotline daily in order to facilitate the prescriptions for prophylaxis. You may refer your asymptomatic patients to this line at 231-995-6800 for prophylaxis, but this number should not be released to the general public at this time as it will slow our response down to those in need of prophylaxis.

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Collins at 231-995-6123

outbreak communication- media



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH
2600 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6111

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6051

ADMINISTRATION
2600 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6100

ANIMAL CONTROL
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6080

www.gtchd.org

GT County Monitoring Pertussis Outbreak at Area School

Date: 11-6-2014
Contact: Debi Miner at 231-995-6100

The Grand Traverse County Health Department is investigating an outbreak of Pertussis that spans several grades and multiple classrooms at Grand Traverse Academy. Pertussis also known as Whooping Cough continues to circulate in our community, mirroring increased activity occurring both statewide and nationwide. Currently, there are 6 confirmed cases and 12 suspected cases, as well as additional symptomatic students at this school currently being evaluated. Grand Traverse County Health Department has recommended that all household contacts and close contacts of these cases receive prophylactic antibiotics regardless of immunization status. Additionally, to further stop the spread of the current outbreak we are recommending that all students and staff at this school receive prophylactic antibiotics. Grand Traverse Academy has been working closely with the Health Department and complying with all recommendations.

Early symptoms can last for 1 to 2 weeks and usually include:

- Runny nose
- Low-grade fever (generally minimal throughout the course of the disease)
- Mild, occasional cough
- Apnea — a pause in breathing (in infants)

Pertussis can cause violent and rapid coughing, over and over, until the air is gone from the lungs and you are forced to inhale with a loud "whooping" sound. This extreme coughing can cause you to throw up and be very tired. The "whoop" is often not there and the infection is generally milder (less severe) in teens and adults, especially those who have been vaccinated. The incubation period of Pertussis is usually 7 to 10 days. Transmission occurs from close contact with infected human respiratory secretions (large droplet). Immunity from previous illness or immunization can wane over time and often older children, adolescents, and adults are the source of disease.

It's important that both children and adults are up-to-date on their immunizations. Booster shots for pertussis are critical because, unlike some other vaccine-preventable diseases, neither the pertussis disease nor vaccine confers lifelong immunity. The best way to prevent pertussis cases and outbreaks is to have the highest possible level of immunization in the community.

Community members can also help prevent the spread of whooping cough by taking the following precautions:

- Washing hands frequently
- Covering nose/mouth when coughing
- Staying home from work and school when sick, even if just a cough
- Contacting their health care provider if they have a prolonged or severe cough

For additional information on Pertussis please visit the following websites: <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/> Or http://michigan.gov/documents/mdch/PertussisFactSheet_284511_7.pdf

###



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH
2600 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6111

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6051

ADMINISTRATION
2600 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6100

ANIMAL CONTROL
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6080

www.gtchd.org

11-8-2014

Update on Pertussis Outbreak at Area School

The Grand Traverse County Health Department continues to respond to an outbreak of Pertussis, also known as Whooping Cough, at Grand Traverse Academy. The number of cases associated with this outbreak continues to increase, however at this time, all cases are linked to exposure at this school. As of November 8th, there are 9 confirmed cases, 57 probable cases and many more suspected cases being seen at area physician offices, urgent cares and clinics. We expect the numbers to continue to increase as more cases are reported and evaluated. Grand Traverse Academy has been working closely with the Health Department and complying with all recommendations.

Due to the number of cases and classrooms affected, it is recommended that all students and staff at this school receive prophylactic antibiotics, to prevent additional illness and further spread. Additionally, all household contacts and close contacts of the confirmed and probable cases should receive prophylactic antibiotics regardless of immunization status.

The Health Department continues to staff the hot-line established for families and staff of Grand Traverse Academy, in order to facilitate the prescriptions for prophylaxis through the weekend. That phone number was included in the 1200+ letters sent home with students and on a follow-up call-out message from the academy to parents and staff. (If the outbreak spreads to the general community, this phone number will be made available to the public at that time, but due to the volume of calls at this time, this number is reserved for those affected by the outbreak directly.) Grand Traverse County Health Department has taken on this role, as some area physician offices and clinics are not able to assist with their own patients who are not symptomatic, due to the large volume. Symptomatic individuals are continuing to overwhelm physician offices and urgent care clinics.

Grand Traverse Academy staff and students are encouraged to refrain from congregating in public places. Further, households that have ill people associated with this outbreak must refrain from public activities such as going to work, church, school and other social gatherings in public. Symptomatic individuals should stay home until they have completed the treatment (typically 5 days of antibiotics). Great care needs to be taken not to spread their illness.

The concern is the spread to the most vulnerable people in our community, infants, pregnant women, and those with suppressed immune systems, some of whom cannot be vaccinated.

Whooping cough is a very serious illness, which is preventable by vaccine. Babies cannot receive their first dose until they are two months old. They are the most vulnerable and at high risk of death if they get pertussis. If you are or have a vulnerable member of the community in your household, be aware that there are multiple cases of pertussis in our community and be mindful of where you go, who you are around, or allow to be around you or your newborn baby.

outbreak communication- media

Measles is a highly contagious infection caused by a virus that is spread through the air. It can be quite serious, especially for young children under 5 and for adults, especially those with other chronic illnesses.

A number of complications, especially diarrhea, are possible and measles can result in hospitalization, pneumonia, encephalitis and death.

The Health Department is working with several entities to directly contact those who may have been exposed. Several close contacts have been isolated and are being monitored for symptoms. The Health Department is also encouraging the public to make sure they are vaccinated against the measles, as world-wide there has been a resurgence of cases.

The best way to protect yourself from the measles is to get vaccinated with the MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) vaccine, which is very effective and safe.

Adults and children all need to be vaccinated to protect the health their families, friends and the community as a whole.

Symptoms of measles include fever, runny nose, cough, loss of appetite, "pink eye," and a rash. The rash usually lasts 5-6 days and begins at the hairline, moves to the face and upper neck, and proceeds down the body.

Complications, especially diarrhea, are possible and measles can result in hospitalization, pneumonia, encephalitis and death. Individuals who develop measles begin to be infectious to others several days before they themselves become sick.

2 confirmed cases of Measles in Grand Traverse County- both were unimmunized and had recently returned from traveling to the Philippines.

According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, these are the first measles cases in Michigan in 2014. Over 600 measles cases have been reported nationwide in 2014, the highest number in any year since 1994.

Immunity to measles is life-long, either through having the measles or being immunized. People born before 1957 can be assumed to be immune, as nearly every child caught measles prior to the availability of a vaccine. Individuals who had the measles shot (MMR) in childhood, are also immune.

community engagement- MEDIA

REGION

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Friday, November 7, 2014

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1467

WHOOPIING COUGH

Academy confirms outbreak

Health officials urge preventative antibiotic for students, staff

commonly known as whooping cough, that span several grades and multiple classrooms at the school. There are six confirmed cases, 12 others are being tested and additional symptomatic students are being evaluated.

"It's a notifiable disease,"

Trute said the disease is preventable by vaccine, and booster shots are needed in late elementary or middle school-aged kids for continued protection.

There are about 1,230 students

notified parents and staff members, and also provided them with the numbers for the health department," Ferris said.

Trute said she wouldn't be surprised if cases crop up at other schools. People with symptoms

must be reported to the health department, though

have come confirmed cases in

counties' health de-

also confirmed 21 cases, a bacterium similar to whooping cough but with milder

Whooping cough is preventable, but parapatients continue to miss area classrooms are 22 schools

protect against the disease.

"Certainly any one case is concerning, but at this time we don't have any fear of any wide-spread outbreak," he said.

Traverse City Area Public Schools is seeing more whooping cough cases as an outbreak at Grand Traverse Academy loses steam.

There are now 15 confirmed cases at TCAPS that range from

could help curb the spread. "I think so simply because you're not in a closed space with people susceptible to it," she said. "It should do some good."

Officials caution that younger children, especially infants too young to be fully immunized, are the most at risk of catching a severe case of whooping cough, which can be fatal.

es in their studies and county health officials identify close contacts who are ill.

"Families are advised by the health department to keep their student home from classroom when diagnosis," McGrand Traverse Academy, which produces

TRAVERSE CITY RECORD EAGLE

Thursday, December 4, 2014

THURSDAY

75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.75 SUNDAY

OUTBREAK

New illness hits area school

Some cases are different strain of pertussis

BY SARAH ELMS
selms@record-eagle.com

The Children's House, a local independent Montessori school, turned out to be a different disease.

It's called parapatussis, a bacterial illness similar to pertussis.

Mike Lahey, the Grand Traverse County Health Department's emergency preparedness coordinator, said Wednesday that there are eight confirmed parapatussis cases in the county.

ease first popped up in October.

Parapatussis ordinarily is less severe than whooping cough, but there's another difference between the two: Parapatussis cannot be

Missy Russell, director of advancement at The Children's House, said the school has six parapatussis cases.

"It's a closely-related bacteria, but it's a different disease," she said.

Russell said those students are home from school and being treated with antibiotics. Close contacts of parapatussis patients won't receive prophylaxis unless they are at a high risk of get-

Dr. Karen Speirs, Manson Medical Center's medical director of infection prevention, said it's concerning that measles showed up in the area in the first place, particularly in the midst of a whooping cough outbreak.

Both diseases can be deadly.

REGION/OPINION

NEWS FROM NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN

Sunday, December 21, 2014

LOCAL NEWS EDITOR (231) 933-1472

PUBLIC HEALTH

GT County will increase staff

Officials hope new addition will help ease workload

BY SARAH ELMS
selms@record-eagle.com

TRAVERSE CITY — Grand Traverse County Health Department officials toiled in overdrive since a rash of communicable diseases emerged in the community this year, and they hope adding an

additional nurse will help ease the workload.

County commissioners unanimously approved the addition of one full-time public health nurse to the department's communicable disease program, which monitors and responds to more than 70 communicable diseases that law requires physi-



Trute



Lathrop

cians and laboratories to report.

"I'm in support of the motion," Commissioner Charlie Renny said. "I'd also like to compliment the health department of how they handled all phases of the outbreak this fall."

Health Officer Wendy Trute said she's been pulling nurses from

other service areas to meet the program's increased volume of whooping cough, paraperitussis and measles cases.

That's resulted in cuts to health clinics, home visits and school vision and hearing screenings, as well as in a loss of revenue to those programs.

"We've come to the point where we just can't continue to do that. It's not feasible anymore," Trute told commissioners last week.

SEE STAFF PAGE 2B

outbreak operations & staffing

Biggest Challenge- key staff off

- medical director - 3 weeks
- communicable disease director - 3 weeks
- public information officer - 6 weeks

Staff shifting

- family planning and STD clinics reduced in half
- pulled staff from MIHP, Adolescent Clinics, Children's Special Health Care Services, Vision & Hearing, Healthy Futures, Medicaid Outreach activities
- called in extra staff (on call)
- EHR & accreditation put on hold
- increased immunization & flu staff

Staff morale

Vacations/Holiday & Illness (influenza)

outbreak operations- COST

Extra staff time

- ❑ comp- 88 hours
- ❑ overtime- 42 hours

Increased staff time due to outbreak

- ❑ management- 536 hours
- ❑ nursing & support staff- 660 hours

Prescriptions- \$7000

Staff time cost- \$55,000

Estimated cost of outbreak for GTCHD: \$62,000

post outbreak climate

❑ Proceed with caution!

- know before you go
- be prepared
- don't engage

❑ Increased community interest in vaccination

- media events
- Immunization Task Force

How anti-vaxxers do statistics:



**If you have 4 pencils and I have 7 apples, how many pancakes will fit on the roof?
Purple, because aliens don't wear hats.**

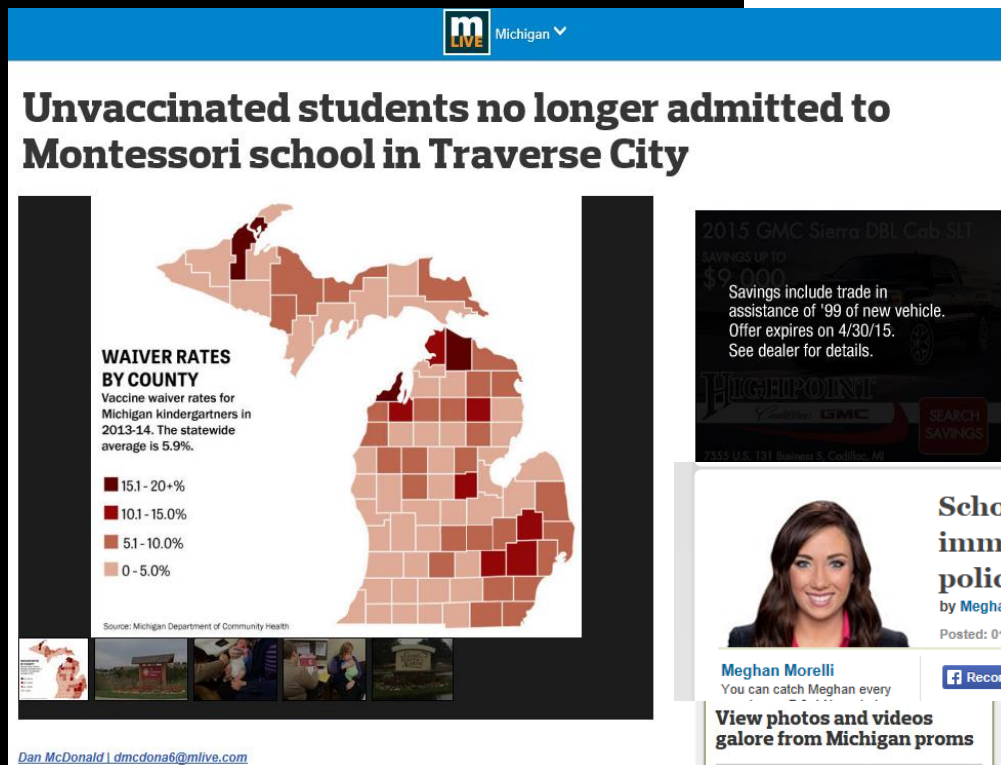


REAVM

post outbreak climate

Schools Changed policies!

- ❑ Children's House
- ❑ TCAPS



The Atlantic SUBSCRIBE SEARCH MENU

EDUCATION

How Schools Are Dealing With Anti-Vaccine Parents

One campus is refusing to admit kids who haven't been immunized, and more could follow.



El Anviflickr

Editorial: Health Department steps up

55



Story

Print



Font Size:



Posted: Wednesday, January 7, 2015 5:49 pm

You never know you need powerful public health laws and an aggressive health department until ... you need them.

Grand Traverse County residents were well served by the vigorous reaction of the Grand Traverse County Health Department to outbreaks of pertussis (more commonly known as whooping cough), parapertussis (a similar upper respiratory disease) and measles since October.

While the department is still coping with whooping cough (there have been 85 confirmed cases in Grand Traverse County since an outbreak began at Grand Traverse Academy in October) and parapertussis, the measles threat has ended for now, officials said.

Two adults who weren't vaccinated for measles came down with the disease after they returned to Grand Traverse County in mid-November from a trip to the Philippines, where there's been an ongoing measles outbreak since November 2013. The two were hospitalized, and three of their relatives in Leelanau County fell ill with the disease soon after.

Health workers monitored people who came into contact with the five individuals for the full 21-day incubation period to be sure no symptoms appeared. New Year's Eve marked the end of the incubation period, and officials rang in 2015 with no new infections.

Michigan is taking steps to make it more difficult for parents to avoid immunizing their children, which should help prevent future pertussis and measles outbreaks in the future.

contact information

Jodi Kelly

Deputy Health Officer

Director of Community Health Services

jkelly@gtchd.org

231-995-6122

Wendy Hirschenberger

Health Officer

whirsch@gtchd.org

231-995-6101