To: Buncombe County Medical Providers  
From: Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, Medical Director  
Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2014  
RE: Health alert from the Buncombe County Department of Health  

Pertussis guidance for providers

Local providers,

Since Tuesday, November 25, Buncombe County Disease Control staff has been working on an investigation of pertussis at a local childcare center.

• During the investigation, it became apparent that the volume of children who may have been exposed to someone sick with pertussis was very large and that it likely would be very difficult for our staff to contact all of the involved families by phone prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.
• Therefore, this afternoon we provided the attached letters to the childcare center to be sent home with the children.
  o One of the letters is to the parent, advising them that their child may have been exposed to pertussis and asking them to follow up with their child’s medical provider if their child has symptoms consistent with pertussis, is a high-risk contact, or has close contact with someone who is at high-risk from pertussis.
  o The other letter is for the parent to give to the child’s medical provider if the child meets one of these criteria.
    ▪ This letter provides you guidance on either testing/treatment/exclusion of a symptomatic child or prophylaxis for an asymptomatic child who is considered high-risk.

I wanted to provide you with a “heads-up” in case you hear from a parent who receives these letters.

We greatly appreciate your assistance in managing this outbreak.

We have staff on-call 24/7 over this holiday weekend that you or parents at this childcare center can contact (828-250-5109) if necessary.

Thanks for your help with this outbreak,

Jenni
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