



## Buncombe County Health & Human Services

Aging and Veteran's Services ~ Social Work Services  
Public Assistance & Work Support Strategies ~ Public Health  
Amanda Stone, MSW  
Health and Human Services Director

**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.**
  - 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.**
  - 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

[buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org)

HHS Administration p. 828.250.5700 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Aging & Veteran's Services p. 828.250.5726 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Social Work Services p. 828.250.5500 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Public Assistance p. 828.250.5500 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7408 Asheville, NC 28802	Public Health p. 828.250.5000 f. 828.250.6235 PO Box 7407 Asheville, NC 28802
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Jennifer Mullendore, MD, MSPH

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