



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Dickinson County

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Protect Yourself and Children from Whooping Cough!

Kingsford, Michigan – September 30, 2010. Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. It is very serious for babies and can cause them to cough so much that they cannot breathe. Hundreds of babies are hospitalized each year for whooping cough, and some die from it. To protect your baby, it is recommended that new moms and everyone in the family including others that will be caring for the baby be up-to-date on their whooping cough shots.

Whooping cough can also cause adults or teens to have severe coughing that leads to vomiting or broken ribs. They can be hospitalized for pneumonia and miss weeks of work or school. Even worse, they can spread whooping cough to the babies at home.

Children 6 years of age and younger are routinely vaccinated against pertussis, but older children, adolescents and adults need protection too. Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) is the first vaccine for persons under 65 years of age that protects against whooping cough.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is offering the Tdap vaccine to adults, less than 65 years of age, at the seasonal flu clinics listed below.

- Iron County - Thursday, October 21st from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Iron River
- Dickinson County - Saturday, October 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Kingsford Middle School
- **After October 23rd** appointments will be taken for clinics to be held at the Crystal Falls Senior Center, Sagola Senior Center, Forest Park School, West Iron County School, North Dickinson School and Norway School.

The Tdap vaccine may be billed to Michigan Medicaid and private health insurance. Adults without health insurance or if their insurance does not cover immunizations, would qualify for free Tdap vaccine for the low cost of a \$13 administration fee.

If you would like to schedule an appointment at one of the seasonal flu clinics or during one of the Health Department's regularly scheduled immunization clinics, call (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-4150.

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