



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Henderson County Department of Public Health

Steven E. Smith, MPA, Health Director | Diana Curran, MD, Medical Director

1200 Spartanburg Highway, Suite 100, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Main Phone: (828) 692-4223 | Administration FAX: (828) 697-4709

Clinic FAX: (828) 697-4691 | Communicable Disease FAX: (828) 697-4504

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For media inquiries, contact:**

Andrew Mundhenk, (828) 694-6064

[amundhenk@hendersoncountync.gov](mailto:amundhenk@hendersoncountync.gov)

### **Pertussis cases reported in Henderson County**

**HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. (April 25, 2024)** – The Henderson County Department of Public Health has confirmed a current outbreak of 27 cases of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, in Henderson County.

The Health Department is actively working to identify and notify those who may have been exposed to the cases. Most cases are among school-aged children. Parents, guardians and close contacts of the individuals are being notified by letter or phone call.

Pertussis is an infection that affects the airways and lungs. It spreads easily when someone coughs or sneezes. Symptoms usually develop within 5 to 10 days after exposure, but sometimes take as long as 21 days. It causes a severe cough that can last for weeks or months, sometimes leading to coughing fits or vomiting.

Pertussis can affect anyone, but infants younger than 12 months of age and individuals with weakened immune systems are at the highest risk for severe complications and death.

Families are encouraged to make sure their vaccinations are up-to-date. Protection against pertussis from the childhood vaccine, DTaP, decreases over time. Older children and adults, including pregnant women, need to get a pertussis booster shot called “Tdap” to protect themselves and infants near or around them.

If you need the Tdap vaccine, contact your healthcare provider or call the Health Department at 828-692-4223 for assistance.

For more information on pertussis, visit [www.cdc.gov/pertussis/](http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/).