



Lori Halsey
Director of Health Services
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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We want to make you aware that one student at your child's school has pertussis. There are no students in school exhibiting signs of pertussis, however we want to be proactive in providing you with this information should you or someone in your home experience symptoms. We have also done additional sanitation to ensure the health and safety of all.

Pertussis, also called whooping cough is contagious and is spread through the air by cough. Pertussis begins with cold symptoms and a cough that becomes worse over 1-2 weeks. Symptoms usually include a long series of coughs followed by a whooping noise. However, older children, adults and very young infants may not develop the whoop. There is generally no fever. The cough is often worse at night and cough medicines usually do not help. Infants under one year, and particularly under six months, are most likely to experience severe illness if they develop pertussis. Children under one year of age are not immunized against Pertussis.

If your child comes down with cold symptoms that include a cough, please talk to your child's doctor. Tell him/her that there has been pertussis identified at your child's school. Giving antibiotics early can help your child get well faster and lower the chances of spreading the disease to others. Thank you and don't hesitate to contact me or your school nurse if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lori Halsey
Director of Health Services