



Pertussis (*Whooping Cough*)

Date:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A student in your child's classroom has been reported as having Pertussis (Whooping cough). Pertussis is an acute, bacterial infection characterized by severe coughing episodes. Pertussis is contagious.

There is an immunization available against this disease. The pertussis vaccine is generally given with diphtheria and tetanus vaccines as "DTaP." State law requires a minimum of four doses of DTaP for school entry for children under the age of 7 years. Beginning July 2011, a pertussis booster (Tdap) is required for middle and high school students. For students who are properly immunized, the risk of contracting pertussis is smaller, but is still possible.

Pertussis ordinarily develops within 7 to 20 days after exposure. This illness begins with a mild cough and low grade fever, and progresses to episodes of coughing which increase in their number and severity.

If you have concerns about your child's immunization status, or if your child develops any of the above symptoms, consult your physician. Report confirmed cases of pertussis to your child's school.

Children who become ill with pertussis may return to school when a physician provides a written clearance.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Child Development Preschool Nurses

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