



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County Epidemiology Program at 904-253-1850.

What is Pertussis?

- A contagious bacterial infection of the throat and lungs
- A vaccine preventable illness

What are the symptoms of Pertussis?

- Runny nose followed by an irritating cough that gradually changes into a “whoop”

How is Pertussis spread?

- Spreads easily through the air when a person who has whooping cough breathes, coughs, or sneezes
- Up to 90% of household members may catch the disease from an infected family member

How can Pertussis be prevented?

- Follow recommended immunization schedules for the DTaP or Tdap vaccine.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve. Dispose of the tissue as soon as possible.
- Exclude symptomatic adult, infant or child from work, school and/or day care settings until properly treated.

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff who have been diagnosed with the disease
- Must have a healthcare provider’s note to return

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:

<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>