



PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH) EXPOSURE NOTICE

1/13/2012

Dear Parents,

We have been informed of a Confirmed case of Pertussis (whooping cough) occurring at Horace Mann School. If you or your child(ren) develop cold symptoms that include a significant, repetitive cough, talk to your physician immediately and inform them of this potential exposure to a confirmed case of Pertussis.

Pertussis begins with cold-like symptoms and a cough, which becomes much worse over 1-2 weeks. Symptoms usually include a long series of coughs ("coughing spasms") followed by a whooping noise. Older children, adults, and very young infants may not develop the whoop. There is generally no fever. People with pertussis may have a repetitive cough accompanied by gagging, vomiting, or difficulty catching breath. The cough is often worse at night and cough medicines usually do not help alleviate the cough. The disease is most serious in unimmunized infants, preschoolers, and immune compromised individuals. If you have preschool children at home make sure they are up-to-date with their immunizations.

****If you develop symptoms suggestive of Pertussis, please stay AT HOME – please do not attend school/work or social or extracurricular activities until Pertussis disease has been ruled out by your physician and/or you have completed 5 days of an appropriate antibiotic treatment.**

If you would like more information about Pertussis or have further questions regarding this notice, please call the Neenah Department of Public Health at 886-6155, or the Health Department in your area. Your physician and The Wisconsin Department of Public Health also has a significant amount of information available to you online.

Attached for your reference is a Fact Sheet providing additional information regarding Pertussis and its treatment.