

Pertussis Guidance for School Settings - 2018

Immunization and early recognition of pertussis can prevent further spread and protect others, especially infants who are most vulnerable to severe disease, complications, and death.

REPORT cases of pertussis to Contra Costa Public Health at 925-313-6740.

EXCLUDE students with pertussis from childcare, school and other group activities until 5 days of effective antibiotic treatment (or 21 days after cough onset if no treatment). Exclusion of unimmunized students who are not ill is not recommended.

NOTIFY parents/guardians and staff about pertussis signs/symptoms, prevention and control measures, and refer to health care provider for evaluation if needed (Public Health has a template letter to use for this). School closure is generally not recommended.

IDENTIFY high-risk contacts and direct them to their provider to evaluate the need for post-exposure prophylaxis. High-risk contacts include:

- Infant less than 1 year of age;
- Pregnant women in 3rd trimester;
- Caregivers and household contact of infants;
- Childcare setting with infant or pregnant women;
- Healthcare workers who care for infants or pregnant or postpartum women; and
- Those with chronic medical conditions: respiratory, neuromuscular and immunodeficiency

MONITOR contacts for acute illness for 21 days after last exposure to an infectious case. Exclusion of unimmunized students who are not ill is not recommended.

ENCOURAGE pertussis vaccination for students, families, and staff:

- Young children need five doses of DTaP by kindergarten
- **Students entering 7th grade** need a Tdap booster
- **Pregnant women** are recommended to receive a Tdap booster during their third trimester of each pregnancy, even if they got it before pregnancy
- **Adults** are recommended to receive a Tdap booster if they have not yet received a one, **especially if they are in contact with infants or are health care workers**

Additional Questions and Resources:

The Contra Costa Public Health Communicable Disease Programs can be reached 8AM-5PM M-F at: 925-313-6740 (phone) or 925-313-6465 (fax). More information may be found at <http://cchealth.org/pertussis/> or <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/index.html>

