

Your child may have been exposed to:

Pertussis

Quick Help

If you think your child has Pertussis

Tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Need to stay home?

No, if the child is healthy enough for routine activities.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect anything that comes in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. Use a product that kills germs.

KEEP IN MIND THAT ADULTS CAN ALSO BE INFECTED WITH PERTUSSIS.

Pertussis (whooping cough) can be a serious bacterial illness, especially in young, unvaccinated children.

Symptoms:

Your child may first have a runny nose, sneezing, mild cough and possible fever. After 1 to 2 weeks, your child may cough in explosive bursts. These coughing attacks can end in vomiting and/or in a high-pitched whoop. Coughing attacks occur most often at night. This may last up to three months. If your child has been infected, it may take 4 to 21 days (usually 7 to 10) for symptoms to start.

Spread

By sneezing or coughing.

Contagious Period

From the time of the first cold-like symptoms until 21 days after coughing begin. Antibiotics shorten the time a child with pertussis can give it to others.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- If anyone had a cough 14 or more days. Laboratory tests may be done. Antibiotics will reduce the contagious period, but may do little to relieve your child's cough.
- If anyone has been exposed to pertussis. Also, if public health has recommended that antibiotics are needed because of an exposure.

For more information, please visit or call:
Oldham County Health Department
1786 Commerce Parkway, LaGrange KY 40031
502-222-3516 ext. 136
www.oldhamcountyhealthdepartment.org

