

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?

Yes. Pertussis is a highly contagious illness for which routine exclusion of infected children is warranted. Exclude close contacts who are coughing until they are seen by a physician or are treated with effective antibiotics for five (5) days.

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

