

## **Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Exposure Notice**

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to a lab confirmed case of pertussis at Appleton East High School between Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 26, 2012. If your child is infected, it is expected that he or she could become ill no later than Feb. 16, 2012.

Although transmission of pertussis bacteria requires prolonged close contact, we want you to be aware of this situation and alert you to the signs and symptoms. The disease is spread by air through direct face-to-face contact with the sick person. Pertussis begins with cold like symptoms and a cough that becomes much worse over 1-2 weeks. Symptoms usually include a long series of coughs ("coughing fits") followed by a whooping noise. However, older children, adults and very young infants may not develop the whoop. There is generally no fever. People with pertussis may also have a series of coughs followed by vomiting, turning blue, 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 and preschoolers. **If you have preschool children at home make sure they are current with their immunizations.** It is important to note that even though your child may have been vaccinated for pertussis, they can still become infected with pertussis. **Attached** please find additional information regarding pertussis.

**Please check your child's immunization record to be sure they are current with their DTaP vaccine. The fifth dose of DTaP can be given as early as age four and can boost a child's protection. An adult booster (Tdap) can be given as early as age 10-11.**

**If your child develops any symptoms suggestive of pertussis, please immediately contact your physician for evaluation and bring this letter with you to the appointment.**

Any questions you may have about this notice can be directed to the Appleton Health Department at 832-6429.

Enclosure: Disease Fact Sheet Series: Pertussis (Whooping Cough)