# **Pertussis Exposure Notice**

Your child may have been exposed to **Whooping Cough (Pertussis)** on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Please check your child for symptoms through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If your child has symptoms, please contact your child’s healthcare provider.

**Children with Whooping Cough may not return to childcare or school until they have taken at least 3 days of antibiotics. If a child with Whooping Cough did not receive antibiotics, they may not return to school until 21 days after the cough started.**

## Whooping Cough (Pertussis) is an illness caused by bacteria. The symptoms are:

* Runny nose
* Red, watery eyes,
* Low grade fever (100.4 F° or less)
* Cough
* Feeling very tired
* After 12 weeks, the symptoms get worse. Thick mucus builds in the throat and causes long coughing attacks. A child’s face may turn blue if they are not getting enough oxygen when coughing. A “whoop” sound may be heard when the child is coughing.

**Whooping Cough can be a serious illness or fatal for infants.**

## How is Whooping Cough spread?

* Coughing and sneezing
* Touched items that have been contaminated with the bacteria/germs
* Any person who is sick should avoid taking care of or spending time with pregnant women and infants or young children until they have taken antibiotics for 3 days.

## Prevention

Whooping cough may be prevented by the vaccine. It is most effective during the three years after vaccination, and then immunity from the vaccine wanes or decreases. Vaccination can reduce the severity and length of time a person is sick. **To protect infants, pregnant women should receive the Tdap vaccine between 27 to 36 weeks of pregnancy.**

## What can I do now?

Watch your child for symptoms. If your child has a cough that does not resolve, discuss this notice and your child’s symptoms with the health care provider. All infants (younger than 1 year of age), pregnant women, and household members who are in contact with an ill individual should talk to their health care provider about taking antibiotics to prevent getting sick.

* Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water.
* Cover cough and sneeze with the arm, not the hands.