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Parents & Guardians,

We are sending you this letter, as a precaution, to notify you that your child was recently exposed to Pertussis (Whooping Cough). Pertussis is transmitted by direct contact with respiratory secretions of an infected person (by coughing, sneezing, etc.)

Your child received a DTP immunization as a young child. That immunization would have protected him/her for 10-12 years. Unless they received another dose of vaccine (normally Tdap) within the past several years, they are susceptible to the disease. Contact your Dr., if you would like to know more about the vaccines available.

Please monitor your child during the remainder of this month, for cold or flu-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, sneezing, fever and a mild cough. These symptoms can last up to 2 weeks and are followed by increasingly severe coughing spells, often causing the child to vomit or be unable to sleep at night. Fever, if present, is usually mild. A person with a cough that lasts more than a week, without improvement, should see a health care provider to ensure the cough is not pertussis.

Pertussis is treated with antibiotics. The same antibiotics are given to prevent infection, as to treat an infection. If the infected person attends or teaches at school, classroom or school-wide treatment is rarely recommended. Close contacts (family members, close friends, teammates) would be recommended to receive preventive treatment. Also, children that have never received any immunizations, or whose body has a lessened chance of fighting disease, should receive treatment. Please contact your Dr., if you have questions regarding preventative treatment.

We would be happy to discuss any questions you might have. Please contact us at 308-324-1219.

Sincerely,

School Nurse