



PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)

There have been sporadic cases of Pertussis (whooping cough) occurring in the community. If you or your child(ren) develops cold symptoms that include a significant, repetitive cough, talk to your physician immediately.

Pertussis is spread through the respiratory droplets of an infected individual when they cough or sneeze. Pertussis begins with cold-like symptoms and progresses to include a cough, which worsens over 1-2 weeks. Symptoms usually include a long series of coughs followed by an inspiratory “whoop” sound as the individual struggles to catch their breath. There may be a low-grade fever, and some may have a cough so severe that it is accompanied by gagging or vomiting. Coughing may be worse at night. Older children and adults may present with a milder cough that does not include a classic “whoop”.

****If you develop symptoms suggestive of Pertussis, please stay AT HOME – please do not attend school/work or social or extracurricular activities until Pertussis disease has been ruled out by your physician and/or you have completed 5 days of an appropriate antibiotic treatment.**

If you would like more information about Pertussis or have further questions regarding this notice, please call the Menasha Health Department at 967-3520. Your physician and the Wisconsin Department of Public Health also have a significant amount of information available to you online.

Attached for your reference is a Fact Sheet providing additional information regarding Pertussis and its treatment.