



NEW ALBANY HIGH SCHOOL

November 14, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardian:

We wanted to notify you that a case of Pertussis (whooping cough) has been identified in the high school. Pertussis is a highly contagious bacterial illness that causes a cough lasting several weeks. Early symptoms include a runny nose, sneezing, fever and cough – symptoms similar to a common cold or allergies.

Be aware that your child may have been exposed, and if he/she experiences any of these symptoms or is a close contact of a pertussis case, call your child's healthcare provider for medical evaluation. The Ohio Infectious Disease Control Manual defines a close contact of a patient with pertussis as "anyone who has had face-to-face contact or shared a confined space for a prolonged period of time with an infected individual."

Young school children are protected against pertussis because they have been immunized with DTap vaccine. However, the immunity from this vaccine diminishes or may wane after the required kindergarten dose of DTap. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommends, persons aged 7 and older should receive a single dose of Tdap instead of Td for booster immunization against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. All persons exposed to a case of pertussis should be evaluated by their healthcare provider for pertussis-containing vaccination.

Please notify the school if your child is diagnosed with this illness, so we can monitor for any further cases and keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Susan Guy, BSN, RN
District Nursing Coordinator
High School Nurse