



miOttawa Department of
Public Health

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Date: 1/13/2020

Topic: B. Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Dear Parent,

This letter is to inform you that a student at Black River was recently diagnosed with pertussis, commonly referred to as whooping cough. The infected student is receiving appropriate antibiotic therapy at this time.

Sneezing, runny nose, low grade fever and cough are symptoms found in several types of respiratory illnesses. However if your child develops these symptoms and has a severe cough lasting more than 1-2 weeks, we recommend that you consult your physician since this could be a sign of pertussis. We also recommend that you consult your physician concerning your child's immunization status, since the best protection against pertussis is to be fully immunized. By the age of five, children should have received 5 "DTaP" vaccinations to ensure optimum protection against pertussis. All children between the ages of 10 and 18 should receive a Tdap "booster". It is important for parents and grandparents to also have a Tdap booster. Pertussis is often transmitted to a child from a teen or adult. Your physician or the Ottawa County Department of Public Health will be able to answer other questions you may have about immunizations and pertussis. Please note that although the best protection against pertussis is to be fully immunized, prior immunization does not guarantee absolute immunity against this, or any other disease.

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health has provided a pertussis information sheet with this letter and hope that you will find this information useful. Further information on pertussis can also be found on the Ottawa County Department of Public Health web site at www.miOttawa.org/miHealth and on the CDC web site at <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/>

Sincerely,

Paul A. Heidel, MD, MPH
Medical Director
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Our Vision - Healthy People

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