



MINDARIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Dear Parents,

I would like to advise you that a student in this school has a confirmed case of pertussis (whooping cough).

To achieve the best possible care for our students and their families, we have placed an extract from the Department of Health website below.

Should your child display any symptoms, please see a doctor. If the disease is confirmed, please notify the teacher and ensure your child stays at home during the exclusion period.

For further information please contact your GP or Healthdirect Australia on 1800 022 222. I appreciate your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea White
Principal
28 July 2017

PERTUSSIS (Whooping Cough)

What is Pertussis?

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a disease caused by infection of the respiratory tract with the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*.

What are the Symptoms?

- Pertussis usually begins just like a cold, with a runny nose, tiredness and sometimes a mild fever.
- Coughing then develops, usually in bouts, sometimes followed by a deep gasp (or "whoop"). Sometimes people vomit after coughing.
- Pertussis can be very serious in young children, especially those under 6 months of age.
- Older children and adults tend to have a less serious illness, but they can still have persistent coughing that may continue for several weeks, regardless of treatment.

How is it Spread?

Pertussis is spread to other people by droplets from coughing or sneezing. Untreated, a person with pertussis can spread it to other people for up to three weeks after onset of cough. The time between exposure and getting sick is usually seven to ten days, but can be up to three weeks.

Infectious Period

From onset of runny nose to 3 weeks (21 days) after onset of cough.

Keeping Children away from School or Child Care

Exclude for 21 days from the onset of cough or for 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment.

http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/343/3/pertussis_whooping_cough.pm