

Exposure Notice to Families - Whooping Cough/Pertussis

Dear Family:

Your child has been exposed to whooping cough. Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection.

What are the symptoms? A cough and runny nose that gradually worsen. Coughing hard could cause vomiting. In severe coughing episodes children will gasp for air, making a “whoop” sound. Coughing may be worse at night. Infected person may look and feel healthy between coughing episodes.

How is it spread? It’s spread through the air by coughing, sneezing or talking by an infected person. Or it is spread by contact with surfaces contaminated with the mucous of nose or throat of an infected person.

When do symptoms start? About 7-10 days after exposure to an infected person or contaminated items.

Need to keep child home? Yes. Child may return to school after 5 days of antibiotic treatment or 21 days after coughing has started.

Many children are vaccinated against whooping cough but may develop mild symptoms. Should symptoms appear and your child has not been vaccinated, please take your child to a medical facility to receive the necessary treatment, and then notify your child’s Early Learning Center.

Staff: _____ Phone: _____

Center: _____