



County of Erie

MARK POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

January 22, 2019

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

We have had a case of pertussis (whooping cough) reported in the Depew High School. Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that is spread through the air by coughing. Pertussis begins with cold symptoms and a cough. The cough progressively worsens leading to “coughing fits”. The cough is often worse at night and is usually not alleviated by cough medicines. Sometimes, even if a child has received the pertussis immunizations, they may still develop the disease.

When a person has been in contact with someone with pertussis, under certain conditions, antibiotics may be recommended to prevent them from becoming ill. If your child is experiencing a cough, giving antibiotics early can reduce the severity of the disease and the chances of spreading the disease to others.

Please consider the following New York State Department of Health recommendations:

If your child is CURRENTLY ILL or becomes ill with a cough:

1. Contact your child’s pediatrician to discuss testing and antibiotic recommendations to reduce the severity of disease and chance of spreading the disease to others.
2. Household and close personal contacts of a pertussis case should contact their medical care providers to discuss preventive antibiotics especially infants and persons not fully immunized with pertussis.

If you have further concerns or questions, contact your doctor or the Erie County Department of Health at (716) 858-7697.