



Jefferson County Health Department will champion positive health outcomes and behaviors through innovative programs and community engagement.

November 12, 2019

Dear District Nurse,

We are partnering with a fellow county school district to address a current Pertussis outbreak. The school district has been very proactive in their response. As a reminder, we want to encourage all Jefferson County districts to be mindful of the signs and symptoms of the illness and be diligent in their surveillance of the disease.

Pertussis is a respiratory illness caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. It spreads from person to person usually through coughing, sneezing, or spending a lot of time near someone sharing breathing space. Early symptoms include runny nose, mild cough, and low-grade fever. Later symptoms include fits of rapid coughing followed by a high-pitched 'whoop' sound, vomiting, and exhaustion. Treatment usually consists of antibiotics. For more information, you can visit our website at www.jeffcohealth.org/pertussis.

We recommend that individuals check their immunization status and be sure they are up to date on vaccinations. Protection against pertussis from the childhood vaccine, DTaP, decreases over time. Older children and adults, including pregnant women, should receive a pertussis booster shot called "Tdap" to help protect themselves and babies near or around them. We also encourage individuals to practice proper cough etiquette.

Our goal at Jefferson County Health Department is to be your partner in protecting the health of your district's staff, students and families. We are available to answer questions and provide resources as needed. Please feel free to reach out to us at 636-797-3737 for any of your district's needs. Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

Kelley K. Vollmar

Kelley K. Vollmar
Director



Jefferson County Health Department
405 Main Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050
Phone: 636-797-3737 Fax: 636-797-4631
www.jeffcohealth.org



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.