

February 14, 2020

Dear Parent and/or Guardian:

A student attending Highland Elementary has been diagnosed with pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis is a highly infectious and usually mild illness that is easily transmitted through coughing and sneezing and may last for several months. A more specific letter was sent home to the affected classroom.

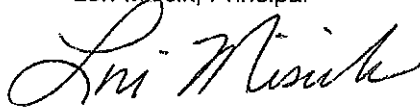
Symptoms of pertussis may appear 5 to 10 days following exposure but can take up to 21 days. The initial symptoms of pertussis are similar to those of common cold: runny nose, low-grade fever and a mild occasional cough, which can become severe and spasmodic - with a distinctive "whooping" sound - and can progress to vomiting between bouts of coughing. Students with a persistent cough or cold symptoms should consult their health care providers.

This letter serves as notification that your child may have been exposed to pertussis. Please remain alert for symptoms of pertussis and contact your health care provider if your child has or develops a coughing illness. In addition, *frequent hand washing and respiratory hygiene (e.g. covering your cough, coughing into tissues, disposing of tissues promptly) are important practices that help to limit the spread of infection.*

If you or your physicians have any further questions, please contact the Madison County Health Department at 618-692-8954 ext. 2.

Sincerely,

Lori Miscik, Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Miscik". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name of the principal.