



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## Health Information

January 13, 2015

Dear Parent/ School Staff,

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

The Monroe County Health Department is investigating a case of Pertussis (whooping cough). Pertussis is a vaccine-preventable disease and if you or your child is up to date on immunizations, the probability of infection is lowered.

When cases of Pertussis are identified, health department officials work with parents/school staff to identify staff /students who may have had a risk of exposure. The time a person is infected with Pertussis until they develop symptoms is called the incubation period. Usually it is from 4-21 days. The incubation period has passed. If you have not developed symptoms by this time, you more than likely will not. Public Health recommends that you check to make sure your immunizations are up to date.

Pertussis is spread by direct contact with the respiratory droplets of someone who is infected. The early symptoms of Pertussis resemble those of a common cold and cough. The cough becomes worse over one to two weeks and usually develops into a long series of coughs followed by a whooping noise. However, older children, adults, and very young infants may not develop the whoop. The cough is often worse at night and cough medicines usually do not alleviate the cough. Pertussis affects people of all ages, but is much more serious in infants under the age of one.

You may visit the below websites to obtain a fact sheet about Pertussis:

[www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4212.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4212.pdf)

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/>

Please consider the following recommendations from the Monroe County Health Department:

1. Contact your physician if you or your child displays cold symptoms with a persistent cough. Pertussis immunization status should be reviewed and age-appropriate vaccine should be given and antibiotic treatment can be initiated if needed.
2. If you or your child develops Pertussis, you will not be permitted to attend school / daycare/ work until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy have been completed or for three weeks after the onset of cough, if treatment was not given.
3. Keep your ill child at home until he or she is no longer contagious. Keep contagious children home from activities where this disease could be spread to others. Examples include church, scouts, and team sports.

If you have further questions, please contact the Monroe County Health Department at 270-487-6782