



Main Office – Belleville

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PERTUSSIS ADVISORY

November 22, 2017

Dear Staff, Parents and Students,

We are writing to you to let you know of local occurrence of infectious disease.

There is a confirmed case of pertussis (whooping cough) in a student at Centre Hastings Secondary School. There has also been a confirmed case of pertussis recently identified in another local area school. It is possible that staff and students at your school have been in contact with pertussis.

Pertussis is spread easily through coughing or sneezing by an infected person. Pertussis is most contagious during the first two weeks of illness.

Please contact your health care provider if you or your child develops signs of pertussis. Pertussis usually begins with a runny nose and cough. The cough may become more frequent and severe after the first 1-2 weeks. The cough may end in gagging, vomiting, or trouble breathing and a high pitched whooping sound can be heard when breathing in.

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease. Unimmunized and partially immunized individuals are at risk, as well as previously immunized adolescents and adults due to waning immunity. Pertussis vaccine is due at 4-6 years of age and again at 14-16 years of age. I strongly encourage parents and students to review their immunization records. If students are due for their pertussis vaccine, I strongly encourage students to be immunized by their family doctor or at a Public Health clinic. To book an immunization appointment at the Hastings Prince Edward Public Health, please call 613-966-5500 x 221.

If your child is diagnosed with pertussis, please contact your school, and call our office. Your child will need to be start antibiotics and will need to stay home for five days after starting the antibiotics.

If you have any questions please contact our Communicable Disease Program at 613-966-5500 x 349.

Sincerely,

Ian M. Gemmill, MD, CCFP, FCFP, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health
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