



Greenwich Junior-Senior High School

"Where Excellence is a Tradition"

George C. Niesz, Principal

Benjamin M. Cronin, Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT NOTICE

November 30, 2010

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We have had one confirmed case of pertussis reported in our school. If your child has been around someone with pertussis, they could become sick as well. This is especially true when the child has not received all the pertussis vaccine shots. Sometimes even if a child's shots are up to date, they may still be able to get pertussis.

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that is spread through the air by cough. Pertussis begins with cold symptoms and a cough which becomes much worse over 1-2 weeks. Symptoms usually include a long series of coughs ("coughing fits") followed by a whooping noise. However, older children, adults and very young infants may not develop the whoop. There is generally only a slight fever.

People with pertussis may have a series of coughs followed by vomiting, turning blue or difficulty catching breath. The cough is often worse at night and cough medicines usually do not help alleviate the cough.

If your child has been in contact with someone with pertussis antibiotics may prevent them from becoming ill. If your child is already sick, giving antibiotics early can help your child get well faster and lower the chances of spreading the disease to others.

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

1. Infants under one year old, especially those under six months, are most likely to have severe symptoms if they develop pertussis. When possible, young infants should be kept away from people with a cough.
Infants with any coughing illness should be seen promptly by their doctor.
2. If your child has not been completely immunized or has not yet received the Tdap immunization, we recommend you talk to your child's doctor about the benefits of vaccination.
3. If your child comes down with cold symptoms that include a cough, talk to your child's doctor without delay. Tell the doctor that pertussis has been reported in your child's school.

The District, Washington County Public Health and our School Physician are following up and monitoring the situation. If you have further concerns or questions you may contact your doctor or Washington County Public Health at 746-2400.

Please feel free to contact Julie E. Mosher, RN 692-9542 ext. 4222 with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

George C. Niesz
7-12 Principal

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