

August 28, 2012

RE: Pertussis Alert

Dear Parent or Guardian of a Davenport Schools Student:

The Scott County Health Department recently notified all Scott County school districts that Pertussis (Whooping Cough) continues to be present in the community. In this memo, you will find information about Pertussis and the Davenport Community School District's procedure for dealing with Pertussis-related symptoms.

Pertussis is spread over short distances through the air by tiny droplets when infected people cough. The time frame during which people can pass this on is 21 days if left untreated. The symptoms include a long series of coughs followed by a whooping noise. These symptoms are more common in the very young and less common in older children, adolescents, and adults. You cannot identify Pertussis by the characteristics of the cough alone.

Adults, teens, and vaccinated children often have mild symptoms that look like the common cold, bronchitis, or asthma or present as a cough only. There is generally no fever.

The following procedures for Pertussis-related symptoms will be followed in our schools:

1. Students that present to the health office with a cough will be asked to put on a mask.
2. If the student has an acute coughing illness or the student has been coughing for more than one week, the student:
 - a. Will be instructed to put on a mask immediately.
 - b. Must be sent home. Please make sure contact phone numbers are up to date.
 - c. Must be seen by a physician to rule out Pertussis.
3. In order to return to school the student:
 - a. Must have a negative Pertussis test which can take up to 5 days, OR
 - b. Must be on the antibiotics to treat Pertussis for 5 days. They may return to school on the 6th day.
 - c. A copy of their prescription must be received in the health office upon return.

We appreciate your cooperation to decrease Pertussis in our schools and community.

Sincerely,
Davenport Community Schools
Health Office