



Healthy. Vibrant.
Everyone. Everywhere.

To Protect, Promote, and Prioritize the Health of our Entire Community

Midtown Campus, 1111 South 41st Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68105

November 7, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian,

An individual attending the 5th grade at Grace Abbot Elementary School has been diagnosed with pertussis (whooping cough).

The Douglas County Health Department (DCHD), in consultation with Kari Simonsen, M.D., DCHD Medical Advisor, is recommending that the following steps be taken:

Staff and students who are in the classes listed on the following page should be observed closely for the development of respiratory symptoms between now and Thursday, November 21, 2019. If staff or students in these classes develop respiratory symptoms, his/her healthcare provider should be contacted regarding their pertussis exposure.

Individuals at high risk of developing severe illness and/or those that have prolonged contact (e.g. household contact) with a high risk person should receive preventive antibiotic treatment. Individuals at high risk include:

- Infants (<12 months of age) and pregnant women
- All people with pre-existing health conditions that may be exacerbated by a pertussis infection (e.g. immunocompromised persons and those with moderate to severe asthma)
- People who have close contact with either infants (<12 months of age), pregnant women, or individuals with pre-existing health conditions at risk of severe illness or complications
- All people in high-risk settings that include infants (<12 months of age) or women in the third trimester of pregnancy. These high risk settings include, but are not limited to, neonatal intensive care units (NICUs), childcare settings, and maternity wards.

If you or your child meet the above high risk criteria, contact your healthcare provider to arrange preventive antibiotic treatment as soon as possible.

Individuals who are not vaccinated against pertussis should contact their healthcare provider to arrange preventive antibiotic treatment as soon as possible. Individuals who are not vaccinated against pertussis and do not receive preventive antibiotic therapy may be excluded from school and/or activities.

Staff and students in the classes listed below that have an ongoing cough need to be evaluated by a healthcare provider. Persons diagnosed with pertussis may return to school and group activities after completing five days of antibiotic therapy.

Parents should also check their child's immunization record. [Questions regarding a child's immunization status should be directed to the child's physician or DCHD.](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html) For the latest childhood immunization schedule, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/easy-to-read/child-easyread.html>.

Please read the attached fact sheet with information about Pertussis disease.

If you or your healthcare provider have questions regarding these recommendations, please visit <https://www.douglascountyhealth.com/infectious-disease/diseases-and-conditions/pertussis> or call the Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Section of the Douglas County Health Department at 402-444-7214.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adi M. Pour'.

Adi M. Pour, Ph.D.
Health Director

Staff and students in the classes identified below should be observed closely for the development of respiratory symptoms between now and Thursday, November 21, 2019. If an individual attending any of the classes listed below, develops respiratory symptoms, his/her healthcare provider should be contacted regarding their pertussis exposure.

	Term: QTR 2 (10/21/19-01/05/20)					
Time	M	T	W	R	F	TEACHER/RM
8:20-8:25	OPENING	OPENING	OPENING	OPENING	OPENING	Pate/117
8:25-8:55	Guidance/Media	Spelling/Science	Spelling/Science	Spelling/Science	Spelling/Science	Pate/117
8:55-9:25	Phys Ed	Music	PE (A wk) Music (B wk)	Phys Ed	Music	Williams/Lesiak
9:25-10:30	Science	Science (Cont.)	Science (cont.)	Science (cont.)	Science (cont.)	Pate/117
10:30-11:20	Reading	Reading/Art (B week)	Reading	Reading	Reading	Pate/117
11:20-12:00	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Recess/Lunch	Pate/117
12:00-12:15	Reading (Cont.)	Math	Math	Math	Math	Pate/117
12:15-1:20	Math	Math	Math	Math	Social Studies	Pate/117
1:20-2:20	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Class Meeting	Pate/117
2:20-3:05	Grammar/Writing	Grammar/Writing	Grammar/Writing	Grammar/Writing	Friday Free Time	Pate/117
3:05-3:20	Study Hall/Dismissal	Study Hall/Dismissal	Study Hall/Dismissal	Study Hall/Dismissal	Study Hall/Dismissal	Pate/117