



CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW ROCHELLE
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HEALTH ADVISORY

PERTUSSIS/WHOOPING COUGH

The Westchester County Department of Health notified the District of a case of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in a 7th grade Albert Leonard Middle School student.

Pertussis is contagious. Onset is from 7 up to 42 days after exposure. In older children and teenagers, Pertussis presents similarly to a cold (upper respiratory infection). It is more serious in infants and young children than it is in teenagers and adults. The best way to prevent Pertussis or whooping cough in your child and others is to be up to date with your vaccinations, although students who have been fully vaccinated may become infected.

While the risk of illness is relatively low for those who are completely vaccinated, any student or staff member who develops a severe and/or persistent cough is advised to seek medical attention, and advise their health care provider that there has been a case of Pertussis in school. If your health care practitioner has any questions, he/she may call the WCDOH at 914/813-5159, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm or 914/813-5000, 24 hours/day; 7 days/week. Antibiotic treatment can shorten the course of Pertussis and relieve symptoms. Anyone who is being treated for Pertussis should remain out of school until completing a minimum of 5 days of antibiotics.

As a reminder, any student/staff member with any contagious condition (colds, Flu, Pertussis, etc.) should remain home until evaluated by their Health Care Provider. Please contact the Albert Leonard Middle School Health Office at 914/576-4331 or the Health Services Office at 914/576-4264 for general questions about this advisory or to inform us of anyone diagnosed by a health care provider with Pertussis. Here is a link to the NYSDOH Pertussis fact sheet: http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/pertussis/fact_sheet.htm (English and Spanish).

Sincerely,

Adrienne Weiss-Harrison, M.D.
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