

Dear Parents of Monroe High School Students,

We are writing to inform you that the County Health Department has confirmed a case of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, in a student on our campus of Monroe High School.

Enclosed is a New York State Department of Health fact sheet about pertussis. You can find more information online at <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/index.html>.

As you'll see, pertussis is a contagious illness that can be prevented by a vaccine. Most school-age children already have been vaccinated, which decreases the risk of getting the disease or lessens the symptoms if infected.

Pertussis begins with cold-like symptoms, followed by a severe, persistent cough. **If you suspect that your children may have pertussis, please do not send them to school until you have discussed the symptoms with your doctor.** Please alert the doctor that the health department has confirmed a case of pertussis in our building.

There is no reason to be alarmed by this news, but it is a good time to review your family's immunizations. Ideally, your children have already received five pertussis vaccines, plus a booster shot over the age of 11. It's especially important to make sure that everyone in your home, including you, has been vaccinated if they:

- will have contact with infants, toddlers, or preschoolers
- have never received a pertussis vaccination,
- have not completed the full series,
- have an immune deficiency,
- have a serious chronic medical condition, or
- are pregnant

If you have any questions about your family's health or immunizations, please contact your doctor's office. The County Health Department's Immunization Clinic is also a resource. The County Health Department and our school district physician, Dr. Cynthia Devore, are closely monitoring the situation with us, and we will alert you if additional steps are needed.

If you have concerns about pertussis not addressed by this mailing, please call Nurse Seibert at 262-8062 or the County Health Department Immunization Clinic at 753-5150. If you have questions about your student not related to this topic, you are always welcome to call the Principal's office at 232-1530.

Thank you for keeping your family healthy and sending your children to our school.

Sincerely,

Vicky Ramos
Principal

Audrey Seibert
School Nurse