

June 21, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child may have been exposed to Pertussis or Whooping Cough. This letter is to inform you about the signs and symptoms of Pertussis.

Location/Event: CESA Driver's Education Course at Middleton High School  
Possible Exposure Dates: June 10-14

Pertussis:

- Is an infection of the upper respiratory tract caused by a bacteria
- Starts with cold-like symptoms (runny nose, sneezing) and a mild, but annoying cough
- After about a week the cough becomes more severe and may cause vomiting and difficulty breathing.

Pertussis can be very serious to infants and to people whose immune system is compromised.

Even if your child has been immunized against pertussis, the protective effects of this immunization may have decreased and your child may still be susceptible to pertussis infection.

A pertussis vaccine is available for children age 7 and older and adults. This vaccine is called Tdap and also contains protection against tetanus and diphtheria. Tdap vaccination is recommended for all adolescents starting at age 11-12. Contact your child's health care provider if you are interested in the Tdap vaccination.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO REMEMBER**

1. If you or your child develops a cough, contact your health care provider to find out if you or your child should be seen and tested for pertussis. Take this letter with you.
2. If you or your child has chronic health conditions, your health care provider may want you or your child to take antibiotics now even without any symptoms. Please discuss with your health care provider. Take this letter with you if you seek health care for yourself or your child.
3. If you or your child is likely to expose an infant less than one year of age, particularly if that infant is not immunized, or if someone in your household is pregnant, seriously consider treatment with antibiotics now. Discuss this with your health care provider.

If you have further questions, please contact your clinic or Public Health Madison and Dane County at 608-266-4821 or the WI Department of Health Services website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/pertussis.htm>

Sincerely,

Public Health Madison Dane County