

Greenwich Junior-Senior High School

"Where Excellence is a Tradition"

George C. Niesz, Principal

Benjamin M. Cronin, Assistant Principal

*****IMPORTANT MEDICAL ALERT*****

November 30, 2010

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We have had one confirmed case of Pertussis reported in our school.

The purpose of this letter is to **alert you** that your child has been **directly** exposed to Pertussis within the past 21 days and may become sick with Pertussis as well. This is especially true if your child has not received all the pertussis vaccine shots. Sometimes even if a child's shots are up to date, they may still be able to get pertussis.

It is recommended by Washington County Public Health that you contact your child's primary physician **as soon as possible**. Your child may need to be treated with a prophylactic antibiotic. If your child is sick, early treatment can help your child get well faster and reduces the risk of spreading the illness to others.

Pertussis is a highly contagious illness that is spread through the air by cough. Pertussis begins with cold symptoms and a cough which becomes worse over 1-2 weeks. Symptoms usually include a long series of coughs ("coughing fits") following by a whooping noise (older children, adults and very young infants may not develop the whoop). The cough is generally worse at night and cough medicines usually do not help alleviate the cough. There is generally only a slight fever.

It is important to consider contacting your own physician to discuss measures that you can take to remain healthy. The Tdap vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis) is recommended for use with 11-64 year old people to be given as a single dose.

If you have further questions or concerns please notify your child's primary physician as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Julie Mosher, RN.

Julie Mosher, RN.
High School Nurse