

A number of pertussis (also called whooping cough) cases have been reported in the community. Here's what parents/guardians need to know.

- **Contact your health care provider if you or your child has a cough for 7 days or longer.**
 - Your health care provider can do a test for whooping cough.
 - Whooping cough can be treated with antibiotics.
- **Make sure you and your family are up to date on your vaccinations.**
 - Vaccination can prevent illness and decrease symptoms.
 - There is a vaccine type for all ages. Talk to your health care provider.
- **Stay home when ill.**
 - Whooping cough is infectious (most likely to spread to others) in the first three weeks of the illness.
 - Whooping cough may be milder in adults and older children, so you could pass it to others without knowing it.

For more information, contact Hennepin County Public Health at 612-543-5230 or visit the Minnesota Department of Health's Pertussis (Whooping Cough) website (www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/pertussis/pfacts.html).