

Pertussis Policy

DEFINITION:

Pertussis is a highly contagious bacterial infection involving the respiratory tract. It begins with a mild upper respiratory infection and may resemble symptoms of the common cold. Within two weeks the cough becomes more severe and is characterized by numerous rapid coughs that may be more frequent at night. The incubation period is usually 5-10 days but may be as long as 21 days.

GOAL:

Implement guidelines to be used when there is a suspected or confirmed case of pertussis in the school setting.

PLAN:

- Implement state health regulations/CVES policy for control measures:
- People who have been in contact with an infected person but are asymptomatic will be monitored closely for respiratory tract symptoms for 21 days after last contact.
- If a known close contact is symptomatic, will be referred to MD and Public Health Department. Appropriate 5 day antibiotic treatment must be completed before returning to school.
- If tested but not treated will be excluded from school until test results are confirmed negative. Must have MD documentation to return to school.
- CVES nursing staff may consult with school physician. If needed school physician may consult with individuals' medical provider and/or Clinton County Health Department.