

SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE WHOOPIING COUGH (PERTUSSIS) LETTER FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Date: ____/____/____

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Whooping cough (pertussis) is currently an epidemic in Washington. This means we're seeing many more people sick with this disease than usual. Whooping cough can cause hospitalization and even death for young babies. Older kids, teens, and adults often spread the disease to babies. This is a serious situation.

We've noticed that your child, _____, has an ongoing or troublesome cough. Children with long-lasting or nagging coughs may have whooping cough.

Please take your child to see a health care provider for his or her cough. Ask your provider to fill out the attached form. Please bring the completed form back to school or child care when your child returns. Make sure you and the rest of your family are up-to-date on your whooping cough immunizations – ask your health care provider about it.

Whooping cough spreads very easily by coughing and sneezing. It begins with cold-like symptoms and develops into a bad cough. Coughing spells can be severe, sometimes ending in gagging or vomiting. Some kids also may have a high-pitched "whoop" after they cough, which is how the disease got its common name (although infants may not cough at all, and some teens and adults don't have a "whoop" after they cough).

Adults and children may catch whooping cough and spread it to others, even if they were already vaccinated because the vaccine wears off over time.

Sincerely,

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stevens County - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ferry County - 147 N. Clark, PO Box 584, Republic, WA 99166 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration: 509-684-1301, Fax: 509-684-1002 | 509-775-3111, Fax: 509-775-2858 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic: 509-684-5048, Fax: 509-684-9878 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Planning: 509-684-6209, Fax: 509-684-9878 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pend Oreille County - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156 |
| | 509-447-3131, Fax: 509-447-5644 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stevens County - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114 | <input type="checkbox"/> Website: www.netchd.org |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health: 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-8506 | |

Dear Health Care Provider,

Please evaluate this child for cough, and indicate if you suspect pertussis (whooping cough).

Name of Child: _____ Date Evaluated: ____ / ____ / ____

Pertussis Suspected? Yes ___ No ___

IF YES:

- I prescribed antibiotic treatment: Yes ___ No ___

Name of antibiotic:

- I performed laboratory testing: Yes ___ No ___
- The child can return to camp, school, or child care on this date (at least 3 weeks after cough onset or when 5 days of an appropriate antibiotic have been completed):

IF NO:

- I made this diagnosis: _____
- The child can return to camp, school, or child care on this date:

Health Care Provider Signature

Date

Health Care Provider Name:

Clinic Name:

Phone Number:

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