



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TAYLOR EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX
200 DAILEY DRIVE
ORANGE, VIRGINIA 22960
www.ocss-va.org
540-661-4550 Fax 540-661-4599

January 27, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A student in your child's classroom has been diagnosed with pertussis, also known as whooping cough. Whooping cough is a contagious disease that occurs among persons of any age. The disease is spread through the air by droplets produced by sneezing and/or coughing.

Please monitor your child for signs of a cough and illness. Whooping cough usually begins like a cold, with a runny nose, sneezing, low grade fever, and cough. The cough lasts one to two weeks and then may become worse. Symptoms may include uncontrolled coughing spells accompanied by difficulty breathing or vomiting.

If your child has been coughing for more than two weeks, he or she should be evaluated by a health care provider. If the coughing has been occurring for less than two weeks, but the cough has increased in severity, or occurs in fits and spasms (especially if accompanied by difficulty breathing or vomiting), we recommend he or she be evaluated by a health care provider. Please bring this letter with you when visiting your health care provider. **Children with an occasional cough and no other symptoms, or students with only cold-like symptoms and no cough, do not need to be evaluated for whooping cough.**

If your child had not received at least four DTaP immunizations or if you are unsure of your child's immunization status, please contact their physician or the health department regarding possible antibiotic treatment to prevent illness and to schedule an appointment to update the immunizations.

The attached fact sheet will provide additional information. Please contact the Orange Health Department at 540-672-1291 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Mrs. Jo Bond
Orange Health Department