



Southeast District Health Department

Serving: Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties

2511 Schneider Ave Auburn, Nebraska 68305
Phone: (877) 777-0424 or (402) 274-3993
Fax: (402) 274-3967 Website: www.sedhd.org

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

Due to widespread pertussis (whooping cough) within the state, we would like for parents to be aware and observant for unusual coughs.

Coughs due to pertussis in adults and older children may be difficult to distinguish from influenza or a severe cold. Typically coughs due to influenza and the cold improve within two weeks. Coughs from pertussis persist for weeks to months, occurring in sudden coughing episodes. Vomiting may occur when the cough is severe. We recommend individuals with persistent coughs, with sudden coughing episodes, which may end with vomiting, should be evaluated by a medical provider. With treatment the illness can be decreased in severity and duration and is no longer contagious.

The Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD) recommends

Students who are coughing should be excluded from school pending physician evaluation. Individuals diagnosed with pertussis may return after completing 5 days of antibiotic therapy. **Parents should also check their child's immunization record.** Questions regarding a child's immunization status should be directed to the child's physician or the Southeast District Health Department. For the latest childhood/adult immunization schedules, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html>

Students, should be **observed** closely for the development of respiratory symptoms. If an individual develops respiratory symptoms, they should be seen by a physician and evaluated for pertussis.

Please read the attached fact sheet with information about pertussis disease.

Questions regarding these recommendations may be directed to: Lisa Bloss, RN, 877-777-0424.

