

## Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Info for Families

**Attention:** Pertussis has been confirmed within the Butte School District as of 12/5/2024.

What is Pertussis? *Pertussis (aka, Whooping Cough) is a highly contagious, vaccine preventable, bacterial infection of the airways and lungs. It can be treated with antibiotics and simply needs to run its course, but it can also cause respiratory distress in infants, the elderly, and immune compromised individuals.*

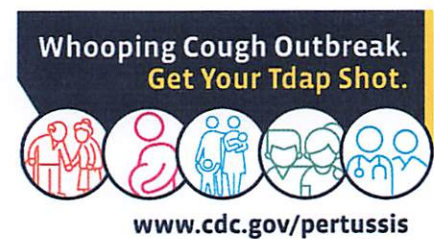
School closures are not necessary. But to reduce the spread of illness, please watch for early symptoms.

Symptoms of a pertussis infection usually take 5 to 10 days after exposure to develop. However, in some cases, symptoms can take as long as 3 weeks to develop.

During the early stages, Pertussis symptoms can appear similar to a common cold. Because of this, healthcare providers often don't suspect or diagnose the infection until more severe symptoms appear.

Early symptoms can last for 1 to 2 weeks and usually include:

- A runny or stuffed-up nose
- A low-grade fever (temp under 100.4°F)
- A mild, occasional cough



One to 2 weeks after the first symptoms start, people may develop paroxysms, known as coughing fits. These coughing fits usually last 1 to 6 weeks but can last for up to 10 weeks. The cough generally gets worse and becomes more frequent as the illness continues.

Later Symptoms include:

- Harsh, rapid, violent, and/or uncontrolled coughing fits

Coughing fits can cause people to:

- Make a high-pitched "whoop" when they inhale after coughing
- Vomit during or after a coughing fit
- Feel very tired after the fit, but usually seem well between fits
- Have difficulty sleeping at night
- Struggle to breathe

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

Cover  
your  
Cough



Call your healthcare provider if you or your child have a harsh cough or are experiencing coughing fits.

**Seek immediate care for breathing difficulties.**

Vaccinated individuals are less likely to get infected and/or tend to have less severe symptoms.

Please reach out to the Butte Silver Bow health department 406-497-5080 or your school nurses if you have any questions:

Elementary Nurses: Katie Yates RN 406-490-0365, Sophia Aanstad, RN 406-465-2198, Barb Richards, RN 406-491-4008

EMS Nurse: Jenny McEwen RN, 406-498-4130 mcewenjl@bsd1.org

BHS Nurse: Kaitlin Hollow RN, 406-498-4131, hollowkm@bsd1.org

For more Pertussis information, visit the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/index.html>

