

VERNON HILLS



HIGH SCHOOL

Ellen D. Cwick, Ed.D.
Principal

Mr. Jonathan L. Guillaume
Associate Principal

Mrs. Jean E. Aucutt
Assistant Principal

December 9, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that one case of Pertussis, also called “whooping cough”, has been reported in our school. Pertussis is caused by bacteria and is spread through the air by cough. To our knowledge, this is the only case that has been reported in our school. The student is being treated and will return to school once she/he receives doctor’s clearance.

Pertussis symptoms appear five to twenty-one days after infection. Usually, only those in close contact with someone having Pertussis becomes infected. Pertussis begins with cold-like symptoms (sneezing and a running nose) and a cough that gradually becomes worse. Patients are most contagious during this cold-like stage and the first two weeks after cough onset. If your child exhibits cold symptoms and a cough, talk to your child’s doctor as soon as possible. Tell the doctor that Pertussis has been reported in your child’s school. Please report possible Pertussis infections to the school nurse. If the doctor suspects Pertussis, keep your child at home for the first 5 days of antibiotics. Antibiotics given early may minimize severe symptoms and prevent the spread of the disease. If your child is treated for Pertussis by a medical provider, the student must have a note from the doctor in order to return to school.

Please see the attached Pertussis fact sheet from the Lake County Health Department. Vernon Hills High School will continue to stress proper preventative measures to reduce exposure. We will be using the VHHS website to communicate any future updates regarding this health concern. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact our school nurse, Ronnie Alshouse, 847-932-2040, or our Assistant Principal, Jean Aucutt, 847-932-2189.

Sincerely,

Ellen D. Cwick

Ellen D. Cwick, Ed.D.
Principal