# Pertussis: School and Activities Exclusion Recommendations

## Reason student seen in clinic

| Prophylaxis recommended by public health due to significant exposure.  
**No symptoms***  
Note: If the student has symptoms, evaluate for pertussis and test, treat, and exclude accordingly. Lab testing is not recommended unless symptoms are present. | Evaluation of symptoms* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis not suspected</td>
<td>Pertussis suspected; cough duration greater than 3 weeks**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected</td>
<td>No NP specimen collected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Antibiotics prescribed

- **Do not exclude.**
  
  **Note:** Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.

### Antibiotics not prescribed

- **Do not exclude.**
  
  **Note:** School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.

**Evaluation of symptoms**

- **Do not exclude.**
  
  **Note:** Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.

- **Exclude** until pertussis ruled out by lab test***, or 5 days of antibiotics are completed.

- **Exclude** until pertussis ruled out by laboratory test***. If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks).

- **Exclude for 21 days from cough onset if suspect case is not tested and ruled out***, or treated.  
  
  **Note:** Testing and treatment is recommended for all suspect cases.

---

*Pertussis-like symptoms can include paroxysmal cough with or without post-tussive vomiting or whoop. Coryza may indicate early pertussis (catarrhal phase).

**Pertussis is infectious only during the first 3 weeks of cough. Treatment and school exclusion are not recommended after that time although the cough may persist much longer.

***A negative test result does not definitively rule out pertussis. Treatment and exclusion should be based on clinical judgment.

---

Vaccine-Preventable Disease Section  
651-201-5414  
www.health.state.mn.us/immunize