# Pertussis: School and Activities Exclusion Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason student seen in clinic</th>
<th>Evaluation of symptoms*</th>
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| 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. | Pertussis not suspected | Pertussis suspected; cough duration greater than 3 weeks** | Pertussis suspected; cough duration 3 weeks or less |
| **Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected** | **No NP specimen collected** | **NP specimen collected** | **No NP specimen collected** |
| 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.* | 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.* | Do not exclude.  
*Note: Treatment is not recommended after 3 weeks of cough illness.* | Exclude until pertussis ruled out by lab test***, or 5 days of antibiotics are completed.  
*Note: Testing is recommended for all suspect cases.* |
| Antibiotics not prescribed | Do not exclude.  
*Note: School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.* | Do not exclude.  
*Note: If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks).* | Do not exclude. | 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).  
*Note: Deferring treatment of suspect cases pending lab results is not recommended.* |

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*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.