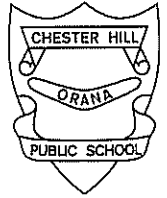


CHESTER HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Quality education in a caring learning environment

Address: Proctor Parade Chester Hill 2162
Email: chesterhil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 9644 1286 9644 1251 Fax: 9743 8094
Web: www.chesterhil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Dear Parents/Carers,

A case of whooping cough has been identified at school. If you or your child develops symptoms, especially over the next two weeks, please go to your local doctor as soon as possible.

A person with whooping cough is infectious for the first 3 weeks of illness but is no longer infectious after 5 days of antibiotic treatment. The coughing can last between one and three months. To help prevent this infection spreading, people who have been diagnosed with pertussis **should not attend school until they have completed a five day course** of the recommended antibiotics. If antibiotics cannot be taken then they must stay away for 3 weeks after onset of cough.

Symptoms begin usually like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, tiredness, mild fever and a cough. The cough gets worse and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing can develop. Coughing bouts can be followed by vomiting, choking or taking a big gasping breath which causes a "whooping" sound. The cough can last for many weeks and can be worse at night. Some newborn babies may not cough at all but they can stop breathing and turn blue.

Most children are immunised against pertussis as it is a standard childhood immunisation, however immunity following vaccination decreases with time. It is important to note that although your child may be immunised, they may still become infected. Children who have not been immunised are at a greater risk of being infected.

NSW Health have produced a Whooping Cough fact sheet which is available at <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/infectious/factsheets/pages/pertussis.aspx>
Other language translations are available on the NSW Health website.

If your child is diagnosed with Whooping Cough please advise the school on 9644 1286.

Brent Kunkler
Principal
11/05/2018