



UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 26, 2018

Dear Parents or Guardians,

The Union Local School District has been notified of two cases of pertussis (whooping cough) at Union Local Elementary. Pertussis is a highly contagious illness that begins with mild, cold-like symptoms including cough and runny nose. These first symptoms typically appear 7-10 days after a person is exposed. The cough typically worsens over the following weeks and becomes spasmodic. The cough may be followed by a "whooping" sound. The spasms of cough may be followed by vomiting. Some persons with pertussis may have very mild symptoms (mild cough with no other symptoms) and may not realize that they are sick or contagious. Pertussis is most severe in infants.

Pertussis is spread through coughing or sneezing. It can also spread by touching a tissue or sharing a cup used by someone with pertussis.

Pertussis is treated with antibiotics. Students who are prescribed antibiotics for suspected pertussis can return to school following the fifth day of treatment. Without antibiotics, a person with pertussis is considered to be contagious for three weeks. It is important that ill student stay at home away from others (especially infants and young children).

Please watch your child for any symptoms of pertussis (mild, cold-like symptoms) over the next several weeks. If you notice any of these symptoms in your child, please notify your family physician. The Union Local School District would ask you to additionally notify the school nurse, Melissa Smith at the Elementary and/or Tracey Childress at Union Local Middle and High School, if a child should be identified to have pertussis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Porter", written over a white background.

Ben Porter
Superintendent
Union Local School District