



**Health Alert
from
the Orange County Health Department**

May 4, 2016

Pertussis case at Gravelly Hills Middle School
(Please share with providers in your practice promptly)

An 8th grader at Gravelly Hills Middle School (Hillsborough) has been diagnosed with pertussis. The student's last day of school while infectious would have been 4-27-16.

Recommendations are summarized below:

- Asymptomatic exposed individuals with high risk conditions or who live with/provide care for individuals who have high risk conditions*, should receive prophylaxis.
- Contacts that develop symptoms should be tested for pertussis** and treated with an appropriate antibiotic.
- A person with pertussis remains infectious until:
 - completion of 5 days of an appropriate antibiotic or
 - until their cough duration has exceeded 21 days
- If prescribing antibiotics to treat pertussis (case or suspect), please counsel patients that they should isolate at home during the first 5 days of treatment or until pertussis is ruled out.
- Assure adequate immunization against pertussis. Tdap can be given to children at age 7 and up if a child is under-immunized against pertussis. Boostrix and Adacel are both licensed for age 10 and up.

*high risk includes those having a household contact who:

- is pregnant
- is younger than 12 months old
- has a pre-existing health condition that places them at risk of severe illness or complications (i.e. immunosuppressed)
- works in settings with high risk infants or pregnant women such as hospital nurseries, childcare settings or maternity wards/clinics

** The Health Department is not able to routinely provide testing for pertussis in the community. If you need to test for pertussis, please consult your reference laboratory about procedures and supplies, or call the NC State Laboratory of Public Health at 919-733-7834 to set up an account.

ALSO...Please remember that beginning this Fall, **ALL STUDENTS, regardless of grade, who are entering a NC Public School for the first time** are required to have a physical evaluation and submit a completed form documenting the evaluation within the first 30 days of school