

PERTUSSIS PARENT FACT SHEET

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Your child may have been exposed to: PERTUSSIS

Pertussis (whooping cough) can be a serious bacterial illness especially in young, unvaccinated children.

Need to stay home?

Yes, consult with the Health Department. May return on the 6th day after appropriate antibiotic treatment begins. During this time the person with pertussis should NOT participate in any childcare, school, or community activities.

If staff of children are not treated, they need to stay home until 21 days after cough starts.

Consult with the health department in regard to a possible outbreak.

See: [NAC 441A.630](#)

Symptoms

Your child may first have a runny nose, sneezing, mild cough, and possibly fever.

After 1 or 2 weeks, your child may cough in explosive bursts. These coughing attacks can end in vomiting and/or in a high-pitched whoop. Coughing attacks occur most often at night. This may last up to three months.

If your child has been infected, it may take 4 to 21 days (usually 7 to 10 days) for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By coughing or sneezing.

Contagious Period

From the time of the first cold-like symptom until 21 days after coughing began. Antibiotics shorten the time a child with pertussis can give it to others.

Call your Healthcare Provider

Someone in your home has:

- Had a cough for 7 days or longer. Laboratory tests may be done. Antibiotics will reduce the contagious period but may do little to relieve your child's cough.
- Been exposed to pertussis. Also, if public health has recommended that antibiotics are needed because of an exposure.

Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with hand washing.

- In Nevada, all children 2 months of age or older enrolled in childcare or school must be vaccinated against pertussis or have legal exemption. There is also a [pertussis vaccine for adults and adolescents](#), especially those who have close contact with children less than one year of age.

For more information, please contact your local health department.

[Carson City Health & Human Services](#) (Carson City, Douglas, Lyon Counties) 775-434-1690 & 775-887-2190 (after hours)

[Central Nevada Health District](#) (Churchill, Mineral, Eureka, Pershing Counties) 775-866-7535

[Northern Nevada Public Health](#) (Washoe County) 775-328-2447 (24 hours)

[Southern Nevada Health District](#) (Clark County) 775-759-1300 (24 hours)

[Division of Public and Behavioral Health](#) (All other Counties) 775-400-0333 (24 hours)

Email: dpbhepi@health.nv.gov