

Direct Contact with a Confirmed Case of Pertussis

Recorded Information Line Option 1

If you, or a family member has had direct contact with a person who has been diagnosed with pertussis and have not been notified, there is a possibility you or your family member could become sick with pertussis as well.

The Broome County Health Department recommends that you contact your family health care provider. Tell the health care provider that you, or your family member, whichever the case may be, had direct contact with a person who has been diagnosed with pertussis.

Antibiotics may prevent you or your family member from becoming ill. If you or your family member is already sick, taking antibiotics early will help you get well more quickly and lower the chances of spreading the disease to others.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a disease that may be transmitted to others despite immunization status, however only people with symptoms can spread the illness to others.

Symptoms of pertussis may begin with a runny nose and may proceed to fever and cough. Symptoms usually include a long series of coughs (“coughing fits”) followed by a whooping noise. However, older children, adults and very young infants may not develop the whoop. People with pertussis may have a series of coughs followed by vomiting, turning blue, or difficulty catching breath. The cough is often worse at night and cough medicines usually do not help alleviate the cough.

The following good health practices will help reduce the spread of all communicable diseases in our community:

- Don't share water bottles or eating utensils
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Practice good hand washing

For more information on pertussis go to the Broome County Health Department's website at www.gobroomecounty.com/safety and follow the links to pertussis.

If you still have questions, contact the Broome County Health Department, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at 778-2839.