

Pertussis: School and Activities Exclusion Recommendations

Reason student seen in clinic		Evaluation of Symptoms*					
Antibiotics prescribed for pertussis	Prophylaxis recommended by public health due to significant exposure. No symptoms* Note: If the student has symptoms, evaluate for pertussis and test, treat, and exclude accordingly. Lab testing is not recommended unless symptoms are present.	Pertussis not suspected		Pertussis suspected; cough duration greater than 3 weeks**		Pertussis suspected; cough duration 3 weeks or less	
		NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected
Do not exclude.	Do not exclude.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended after 3 weeks of cough illness.	Do not exclude.	Exclude until pertussis ruled out by lab test***, or 5 days of antibiotics are completed.	Exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed. Note: Testing is recommended for all suspect cases.
Do not exclude. Note: School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.	Do not exclude. Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.	Do not exclude. If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks).	Do not exclude.	Do not exclude.	Exclude until pertussis ruled out by laboratory test***. If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks). Note: Deferring treatment of suspect cases pending lab results is not recommended.	Exclude for 21 days from cough onset if suspect case is not tested and ruled out***, or treated. Note: Testing and treatment is recommended for all suspect cases.	

*Pertussis-like symptoms can include paroxysmal cough with or without post-tussive vomiting or whoop. Coryza may indicate early pertussis (catarrhal phase).

**Pertussis is infectious only during the first 3 weeks of cough. Treatment and school exclusion are not recommended after that time although the cough may persist much longer.

***A negative test result does not definitively rule out pertussis. Treatment and exclusion should be based on clinical judgment.

NP = nasopharyngeal



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