

Minnesota Department of Health

# Pertussis: School and Activities Exclusion Recommendations

	Reason student seen in clinic						
	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.	Evaluation of Symptoms*					
		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
<b>Antibiotics prescribed for pertussis</b>	<b>Do not exclude.</b>	<b>Do not exclude.</b> <i>Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.</i>	<b>Do not exclude.</b> <i>Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.</i>	<b>Do not exclude.</b> <i>Note: Treatment is not recommended after 3 weeks of cough illness.</i>	<b>Exclude until pertussis ruled out by lab test***, or 5 days of antibiotics are completed.</b>	<b>Exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed.</b> <i>Note: Testing is recommended for all suspect cases.</i>	
<b>Antibiotics not prescribed for pertussis</b>	<b>Do not exclude.</b> <i>Note: School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were not prescribed.</i>	<b>Do not exclude.</b> <b>If test is positive, start treatment and exclude until 5 days of antibiotics are completed (unless cough duration is now greater than 3 weeks).</b>	<b>Do not exclude.</b>	<b>Do not exclude.</b>	<b>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).</b> <i>Note: Deferring treatment of suspect cases pending lab results is not recommended.</i>	<b>Exclude for 21 days from cough onset if suspect case is not tested and ruled out***, or treated.</b> <i>Note: Testing and treatment is recommended for all suspect cases.</i>	

\* 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.