



School Exclusion Requirements for Pertussis

Effective May 7, 2019 the following exclusion requirements are in place for public and private daycares and schools (pre-school through post-secondary) that have had at least one laboratory confirmed case of pertussis in their daycare or school:

- **Confirmed case of pertussis:** Any student, faculty, or staff who has a lab-confirmed positive test for pertussis must be excluded from the school and school activities until they have completed **five days of antibiotic treatment** for pertussis; **OR** for 21 days from the date symptoms* began if treatment is not taken.
- **Symptomatic of pertussis:** Students who have been sent home from school by the school or health officials of the Missoula City-County Health Department due to symptoms* of pertussis, but who do not yet have a lab-confirmed positive test for pertussis, must remain excluded from school until:
 - a) they have been on antibiotics for **five days** (this applies even if the health care provider does not test); **OR**
 - b) they obtain a pertussis test and it is **negative**; **OR**
 - c) for 21 days from the date symptoms* began.
- **Contacts of a pertussis case:** Students who have been identified as contacts to a pertussis case but have **no symptoms*** are **not excluded** from school as long as they remain symptom-free.

School administrators are responsible for adhering to these exclusion requirements during the pertussis outbreak and until further notice. If a student, parent, or guardian does not comply with exclusion requirements, school authorities shall contact the Missoula City-County Health Department. For questions or reports, please call 258-3896.

**Symptoms include runny nose, sneezing, low grade fever, cough. The earliest symptoms are similar to the start of a cold, and a cough, if present, may be mild at first. However, pertussis is contagious during these early symptoms. Later symptoms are a worsening cough and coughing fits.*

Revised May 7, 2019



Health Officer
Missoula City-County Health Department