

December 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Staff:

This is to inform you there have been cases of **Pertussis** (whooping cough) at **West High School**. Symptoms of Pertussis may include: a runny nose, fever, and severe cough that lasts for weeks to months. Pertussis is spread by close contact with the respiratory secretions (i.e. sneezing, coughing, and runny nose) of an infected person. To prevent disease and decrease further spread of this disease, the following guidelines apply:

- 1) Any person with a cough or other cold symptoms needs to contact their physician immediately. Make sure the physician is aware of the Pertussis exposure.
- 2) Individuals who have been fully immunized earlier in life are still susceptible to infection because the Pertussis vaccine wears off over time and no longer provides protection. Infants over 6 weeks of age need the DTaP vaccine series to prevent pertussis; pre-teens over 10 years of age, and all teens and adults need one Tdap vaccine to prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Contact your health care provider, or the Salt Lake County Health Department at 385-468-7468 to make an appointment for the vaccine.
- 3) If you or your child are immunocompromised or have other serious medical problems, please consult with your primary care physician for recommendations.

If you have any questions, please call your primary care provider or the Salt Lake County Health Department at 385-468-4202. You may also visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) online at <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/>. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sincerely,



Dagmar Vitek, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Officer
Salt Lake County Health Department