



To protect, nurture and advance  
the health of our community

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## HEALTH ALERT

Date: 10/1/18

Subject: Pertussis Alert (Whooping Cough)

There has been one confirmed case of whooping cough (pertussis) at **Rhineland High School**, students may have been exposed between 9/24/18 – 10/1/18. Symptoms typically appear 7 – 10 days after exposure, but may appear as early as 5 days or as late as 21 days. If anyone in your family currently has, or develops symptoms of pertussis, contact your doctor.

### Individuals with Pertussis may:

- Begin with cold-like symptoms: a runny nose, possible low-grade fever, and a mild cough
- After 1-2 weeks, the illness progresses to spells of explosive coughing that can interrupt breathing and sleeping
- Make sounds as they struggle to inhale air (hence the name "whooping cough")
- Gag or vomit from coughing
- Experience severe coughing spells for several weeks or months
- Vaccinated individuals symptoms may be milder and without the typical "whoop"

**Please monitor for the development of a cough illness.** If you, or your family, develop symptoms described in this letter, the OCHD recommends that you contact your doctor for testing and treatment.

**To prevent the spread of illness** → Wash hands often. Cover your cough. Stay home when sick.

**Ensure that you and your family are up-to-date on pertussis vaccinations.** Please check with your doctor or the OCHD regarding your family's vaccination status and to see if anyone is due for additional vaccinations.

If you have questions, please call the OCHD at 715-369-6111.

Thank you for your help in preventing the spread of communicable disease.

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Fax: (715) 369-6112  
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100 W. Keenan Street  
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Monday– Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

*Embracing change, partnerships, and best practices to lead  
Oneida County to a healthy future.*