



REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT 19

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Gregory G. Potter, Superintendent

Janet J. Morse, Asst. Supt./Dir. of Instruction

To: Parents/Guardians/Staff
From: RSU #19
Subject: Exposure to Pertussis/Enterovirus D68
Date: October 1, 2014

Pertussis is an illness that is spread from person to person through coughing and sneezing. Pertussis usually begins with symptoms of a common cold (sore throat, and runny nose) and often develops into a severe cough after a few weeks. The cough can last for several weeks or more. Most children are vaccinated against pertussis, but it is still possible for vaccinated children to become ill. Babies are most at risk of serious illness.

To prevent the spread of pertussis in your community, we are making the following recommendations:

1. If your child has or severe cough (may include coughing to the point of gagging, vomiting after coughing or difficulty breathing) or a prolonged cough lasting 2 weeks or longer, please take your child home and contact your health care provider. If your provider suspects pertussis, they will obtain a specimen to be sent for pertussis testing.
2. Children/Adults with severe cough, prolonged cough or confirmed pertussis will be started on antibiotics and will need to remain at home for 5 days while taking these antibiotics.
3. Please check with your medical provider to be sure you and your child are up-to-date on pertussis vaccine. Most children have had vaccine before the age 7 years, but their immunity to the disease may gradually wane over time. Booster shots (Tdap) are now recommended for children 11-18 years old. A single Tdap shot is also recommended for adults, especially adults who have contact with infants and young children.

Enterovirus D68 is the name of the respiratory virus that is sweeping across the United States this fall. As of Wednesday, October 1, 2014, Maine has confirmed it's first case affecting a school-aged child in York County.

IMPORTANT – HAND SANITIZERS DO NOT KILL THIS VIRUS.

Hand washing, covering your cough, and staying at home when sick is still the message for this virus.

If you have further questions, please contact your child's school or the Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.

Thank you,

Gregory G. Potter, Superintendent of Schools
& The RSU #19 School Nurses

