

# Pertussis: School and Activities Exclusion Recommendations

		Reason student seen in clinic					
		Evaluation of symptoms*					
Prophylaxis recommended by public health due to significant exposure. <b>No symptoms*</b> Note: If the student has symptoms, evaluate for pertussis and test, treat, and exclude accordingly. Lab testing is not recommended unless symptoms are present.		Pertussis not suspected		Pertussis suspected; cough duration greater than 3 weeks**		Pertussis suspected; cough duration 3 weeks or less	
		Nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected	NP specimen collected	No NP specimen collected
<b>Antibiotics prescribed</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> Note: Treatment is not recommended unless pertussis is suspected. School or public health may contact provider to discuss why antibiotics were prescribed.	<b>Do not exclude.</b> <i>Note: Treatment is not recommended after 3 weeks of cough illness.</i>		<b>Exclude</b> until pertussis ruled out by lab test***, or 5 days of antibiotics are completed.	<b>Exclude</b> until 5 days of antibiotics are completed. <i>Note: Testing is recommended for all suspect cases.</i>
<b>Antibiotics not prescribed</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> 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>Do not exclude.</b>	<b>Do not exclude.</b>		<b>Exclude</b> 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). <i>Note: Deferring treatment of suspect cases pending lab results is not recommended.</i>	<b>Exclude</b> for 21 days from cough onset if suspect case is not tested and ruled out***, or treated. <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 judgement.

*Developed by the Minnesota Department of Health's Vaccine-Preventable Disease Section (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/pertussis/school/index.html>)*

