

Your child may have been exposed to:

## Parapertussis

Parapertussis is a bacterial illness similar to pertussis (whooping cough) but it tends to be milder.

If you think your child has **parapertussis**, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Childcare and school aged children do not need to stay home if they are healthy enough for routine activities.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

### Symptoms

Your child may have a runny nose, sneezing, or mild coughing. Your child may cough in sudden, uncontrollable bursts. The cough may end with whooping sounds and/or vomiting.

If your child has been infected, it takes 6 to 21 days (usually 7 to 10 days) for symptoms to start.

### Spread

- By sneezing or coughing.
- By touching contaminated hands, objects, or surfaces.

### Contagious period

Unknown, but likely to be most contagious during the first three weeks of coughing.

### Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home is coughing for more than 7 days. Your doctor may want to test for the bacteria. Antibiotics may be given.

### Prevention

- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Use a tissue or your sleeve. Dispose of used tissues in the trash.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the nose or mouth. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect any objects or surfaces that come in contact with secretions from the nose or mouth. Use a product that kills germs.
- Preventive treatment may be considered for infants and immunocompromised people who have come in close contact with someone with parapertussis.