



**PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICES DISTRICT
COCONINO COUNTY**

Barbara Worgess, MPH, *Chief Health Officer*

Clinical Services

Phone: 928-679-722, Fax: 928-679-7351

Dear Parent(s),

The Coconino County Public Health Services District has received a report of a case of whooping cough (pertussis) in a student at Flagstaff Arts and Leadership Academy. The person is on medication to keep the disease from spreading and will be out of the school until they are considered not infectious.

Early symptoms of pertussis are mild and cold-like, with a runny nose and sneezing. The symptoms include a cough that can continue to get worse. Pertussis is easily spread when the infected person coughs. Pertussis can cause spells of violent coughing and gasping for breath in young children. Children may make a "whooping" noise when they breathe in after a hard coughing attack, which is why this disease is often called whooping cough. The cough can last for weeks. This disease is most serious for babies under a year old.

Symptomatic children with a cough should not be allowed to attend school until they are checked by their health care provider. If they are diagnosed with pertussis they will not be allowed back into school until they have been on a 5 day course of antibiotics.

Adults who get pertussis have a cough that may last for weeks, but don't "whoop". Unfortunately, many adults with pertussis are not treated by their doctor and pass this disease on to others, possibly young children. Any adults or children who have a cough that lasts for over 14 days, should be evaluated by their health care provider.

There is a pertussis vaccine that is given to young children in the DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis) vaccine series. It is given in five doses at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4-6 years of age. Adults and children 10 years and older can get the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) vaccine to protect them from pertussis.

The Coconino County Public Health Services District, 2625 N. King St., Flagstaff, offers the DTaP and Tdap vaccine. The vaccine is free for children 18 years of age and younger. A sliding scale administration fee based on household income may apply. Immunizations are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Appointments strongly encouraged. Walk in accepted as time allows. For information on vaccinations and pertussis, please contact the Coconino County Public Health Services District at 928.769.7222.

Sincerely,



Kimbal Babcock, MPH
Clinical Services, Senior Manager