



2 November 2016

## NOTICE TO PARENTS re: Whooping Cough

Dear Parents

A child attending **Before and After School Care - KT OOSH, Anglican College in Rouse Hill** has been diagnosed with whooping cough (pertussis). Whooping cough is easily spread, especially between children. Information on whooping cough is included with this letter.

Whooping cough usually begins like a cold, with a runny nose, tiredness and sometimes a fever. A cough then develops that can be dry and persistent or can be 'bouts' of coughing followed by a deep gasp (or whoop). Young babies may have pauses or difficulty breathing. Sometimes people vomit after coughing.

In order to enhance **early detection and prevent further cases** of whooping cough the Public Health Unit requests the following:

- All parents please be on the lookout for symptoms of whooping cough, especially until the **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**.
- If your child has **any of the symptoms of whooping cough (including cough)**, **please see your doctor before returning to childcare**. If your child has symptoms of whooping cough, then testing (nose and throat swab) is recommended. Please take this letter with you when seeing your doctor. Please keep your child at home until the test results are known.
- If your child has whooping cough, please **inform the childcare** and **keep your child at home** until they have taken antibiotics for **at least five days** or until your doctor advises that they are no longer infectious. If antibiotics cannot be taken, then they must stay away for 3 weeks after the start of the cough.

Immunisation is the best defence against whooping cough. Children should be immunised against whooping cough at 2, 4, & 6 months, and 4 & 12 years of age. Please see your doctor if your child has missed any of these vaccines.

If you require further information, please contact the Infectious Disease Team on 9840 3603 or check the NSW Health website

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/whoopingcough/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Infectious Disease Team  
Western Sydney Public Health Unit