



LEURA PUBLIC SCHOOL
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respect

responsibility

resilience

Monday 18th November 2024

Medical Alert – Whooping Cough (pertussis)

Dear parents/carers,

The school has received notification of a second confirmed case of whooping cough within our community. Following our procedure, the school has reported to NSW Department of Education Work Health and Safety (WHS) and notified NSW Public Health unit.

The following information advice is from **NSW Department of Health**:

*Whooping cough affects people of all ages. It is a serious respiratory infection caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*. Whooping cough is very infectious and spreads easily from one person to another. It affects people of all ages and can be life-threatening in babies. Children and adults generally don't get as sick, but can pass it on to babies who are at higher risk.*

Whooping cough is an illness that usually starts like a cold, with a runny nose, tiredness and sometimes mild fever. A cough then develops, usually in short bouts, followed by a deep gasp or 'whoop'. Not every person makes the whooping sound – this is more common in non-immunised children. The cough can last up to 3 months.

Whooping cough is particularly serious in children under 12 months of age, and hospitalisation is often necessary. Young infants may stop breathing and sometimes turn blue. Adolescents and adults may just have a persistent cough.

Whooping cough spreads by airborne droplets. It can also spread through contact with surfaces that have been contaminated by infectious airborne droplets (e.g. hands, tissues, toys, eating utensils). Symptoms usually start nine to 10 days after exposure.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against whooping cough. Children are immunised at 6 weeks, 4, 6 and 18 months and 4 years of age. Specific antibiotics are used to treat whooping cough and may be recommended for some people that have been in close contact to help prevent infection.

Please watch out for the whooping cough symptoms in your child/ren. If symptoms develop, see a doctor immediately and inform them of our school having a confirmed case of whooping cough. We advise that students who present with symptoms and are tested by a doctor, should not be sent to school until the test results are confirmed as 'negative' for whooping cough. If the diagnosis is 'positive', they must not return until they have been treated with antibiotics for at least 5 days.

If you would like further details about whooping cough, please refer to the following NSW Health website: [Whooping Cough \(Pertussis\)](#)

We hope your children and family stay well.

Kind regards,

Miss Di Kipp
School Administrative Manager

Mrs May Ptolemy
Principal