



KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The community of Keller ISD will educate our students to achieve their highest standards of performance by engaging them in exceptional opportunities.

601 N. Pate-Orr Road
Keller, TX 76248
817-744-1400

Michael Nasra, Principal

October 12, 2017

Dear Keller High School Families,

This letter is to inform you that a confirmed case of pertussis, or “whooping cough,” has been reported in a 9th grade student at Keller High. Your student may have been exposed to pertussis in his/her classroom. Please read this information on pertussis and follow the recommendations to help stop its spread.

Pertussis, also called “whooping cough,” is a highly contagious disease involving the respiratory tract. It is caused by a bacterium that is found in the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person. Pertussis begins like a cold with runny nose, sneezing, mild fever, and cough that slowly gets worse. After one to two weeks the cough gets worse and usually starts to occur in strong coughing fits called “paroxysmal coughing.” This type of coughing may last for six or more weeks. There is generally no fever at this time, and between coughing spells the person often appears to be well. The cough is often worse at night and may be unrelieved by cough medicines. In young children, coughing fits are often followed by a whooping sound as they try to catch their breath. After coughing a person may have difficulty catching his breath, may vomit, or become blue in the face or around the lips. The coughing spells may be so intense that it is hard for babies to eat, drink, or breathe. Some babies may stop breathing (called apnea) and die. Adults, teens, and vaccinated children may have milder symptoms that mimic bronchitis or asthma.

Pertussis can be a very serious disease, particularly for infants less than one year of age. It is easily spread by droplets in the air that form when a person talks, sneezes, or coughs. The following recommendations are from Tarrant County Public Health:

- **Symptomatic persons should be excluded from group settings (daycare, school, church gatherings, etc.) and evaluated by a health care provider.**
- Readmission to group settings (daycare, school, church gatherings, etc.) should occur **only after 5 days of antibiotic therapy**, or when pertussis is ruled out by the health care provider.
- Review your child’s immunization records and catch up any that are due.
- Adolescents and adults should receive Tdap vaccine (**REQUIRED for 7th grade students** in the state of Texas).

Sincerely,

Michael Nasra, Principal